

2024-2025 Substance Use Prevention Lesson

Substance misuse is a pressing public health concern that has a significant impact on students, families, and communities. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) implements a whole-child approach to addressing substance misuse through policies and programs that holistically attend to the physical, social, and emotional health and well-being of every student. Education and prevention activities are a critical part of this approach, as they work to prevent the use and misuse of drugs by increasing awareness of substances, discussing healthy behavioral alternatives, and providing information on how to access supportive resources and services.

All FCPS schools will provide two substance abuse prevention lessons to all students in grades 11 and 12 during the 2024-2025 academic year. The first lesson will be provided at James Madison High School, on November 21st, 2024, during Advisory, and the second lesson will be provided on February 27th, 2025, during Advisory. Lessons will cover the following topics:

- Most Commonly Used Substances
- In-depth Opioid Information
- Negative Impact of Substances
- Reasons Why Youth Use Substances
- Healthy Alternatives to Substances
- Available FCPS and Fairfax County Resources

For additional information related to FCPS' approach to addressing youth substance use please see the [FCPS Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Programs page](#).

If you do not wish for your child to take part in these lessons, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school counselor no later than [insert date]. Your child will be assigned an alternate activity in a separate supervised location during the time the lessons are taking place.

If you have questions about the lessons, please contact Stefan Mascoll, Senior Manager II of Student Safety and Wellness, at 571-423-4270 or smascoll@fcps.edu.

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OPT-OUT FORM

Complete this form only if you do not wish for your child to participate in the substance abuse prevention lessons for students in grades 11 and 12. Please return this form to your child's school counselor no later than November 13, 2024.

I do not give permission for my child to participate in the substance abuse prevention lessons for students in grades 11 and 12. I understand that my child will be assigned an alternative activity during the lesson.

Student's Name (please print): _____

Student's School (please print): _____

Student ID Number: _____

Grade: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____