From Suspension to Support: Mobilizing School Partners to Address Adolescent Substance Use

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What is UpShift?

- Student is using substances
- Student is screened and routed to appropriate pathway of care
- Participation offered instead of out-of-school suspension
- 2-4 Student Sessions
- 1 Parent Session
- Referral to Treatment Provider
Why take an alternate approach to out-of-school suspensions?

- Out-of-school suspensions are counterproductive
- Current practices are inequitable
- Inconsistent approaches
- Hierarchy of substances
- Relationship with families

“Restorative practices are about shifting mindsets...”
Recommendations for Effective School Partnership

- Understand current landscape and approaches
- Identify champion(s) to help increase buy-in
- Clarify roles and establish agreements
- Identify areas for alignment with existing practices
Questions to Consider

1. How does the school or district approach substance use/possession?
2. What capacity currently exists (school/district)?
3. What efforts are currently taking place that align with this program?
4. Where can we provide support to improve current policy/system?
5. What outcomes do the schools/districts care about? How can we address and measure those outcomes?
Key Considerations

Addressing inequities
Creating a consistent system
Clear messaging and branding
Proactive communication
Get creative with capacity - inside/outside the school


THANK YOU!

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Brief Intervention

Screening

- Student is screened for substance use disorder risk
- Student is using substances

Low or Medium Risk

- Session 1
- Session 2
- Session 3
- Tobacco Session (Optional)
- Referral to Treatment (Optional)

High Risk

- Referral to Local Treatment Provider
- School Follows Up w/Family

Referral to Treatment