



March 3, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Starting March 13, 2023, our school's health staff will begin a MDPH mandated screening called SBIRT. SBIRT stands for Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment. SBIRT is related to the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances. The goal of the screening is to reinforce healthy choices and provide resources for education. Teenagers have consistently reported that substance abuse is a topic of most concern.

Students in **grades 6 and 9** will take part in this health screening. Sessions will be kept brief and are conducted confidentially in private by our trained school health staff. Students will be asked about substance exposure or abuse over the past year. The students will have their safe choices reinforced by the screener. Staff will alert the students that they are available to discuss healthy decisions and to assist them in obtaining support for substance abuse-related problems as needed. This program focuses on harm prevention and does not generate disciplinary action.

Screening results are recorded for data purposes and shared with MDPH. Information that could identify a student is not kept (for example, name or date of birth). The Screening results will not go into the student's school record. The results will not be shared without the permission of the student or their parent/guardian. However, results may be shared in the case of immediate medical emergency, or when required by state law.

As with any school health screening, you can opt your child out of this process. Students may also choose to not answer any or all the screening questions. If you do not want your child to participate in this screening contact Kathleen Dupuis, RN @ kdupuis@sics-mail.net. A copy of the CRAFFT-N form that will be used during the interview can be found under the Health News section on our SICS website.

SICS has identified the risk of substance abuse as a priority for education and support with our students and families. Parents and guardians can help their children make healthy choices. One important way to prevent alcohol and drug use is to talk with your children and model safe behavior at home.

Kathleen Dupuis, BSN, RN, NCSN, Nurse Leader