

# SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF CHEMICAL USE/ABUSE

Below are some indicators that a student may require some additional attention before school success is possible. All Students display some of these behaviors at some time. The intensity, frequency, and duration of such behaviors should trigger your concern and need for a referral.

## SOCIAL

- Changing several friends or changing peer groups
- Suddenly popular with friends who are older and unknown to family
- Social activities occurring more often, sometimes at odd hours
- Thrill seeking behaviors – evidenced by law breaking, promiscuity, etc.

## FAMILY

- Isolation from family members (hiding in room, locking bedroom door) and avoiding family activities
- Exhibiting negative attitude toward rules and parents
- Failing to follow through on promises
- Lying and becoming manipulative

## SCHOOL

- Lacking motivation and lower grades
- Sleeping in class, skipping class or school
- Dropping out of school activities
- Becoming disrespectful to teachers, administrators, and rules
- Frequently being disciplined and/or suspended or expelled

## PHYSICAL

- Smelling of alcohol, marijuana or stale smoke
- Memory lapses
- Weight changes or unusual eating patterns (types of foods, amounts, time of day)
- Change in normal sleep patterns (more or less than usual, frequent naps)
- Injuries and/or infections occurring more often

## LEGAL

- Shoplifting or stealing from family members
- Incidents or Charges for Public Intoxication, DUI, Vandalism, Underage Use
- Selling Drugs

## EMOTIONAL

- Talking about or attempting suicide
- Violent or threatening (verbally or physically)
- Lethargic or apathetic
- Mood swings

## OTHER

- Spending large sums of money and asking for money
- Having drug paraphernalia in bedroom or school locker
- Wearing drug oriented clothing and accessories
- Using drug slang, talking about drugs

