

# When Drugs Come to School

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*Please note: It is strongly recommended that schools consult with local law enforcement to discuss recommendations and suggestions*

## In 2005—Students in grades 9-12

- 25% of students in grades 9–12 reported that drugs were made available to them on school property
- 4% consumed at least one drink on school property during the previous 30 days. Hispanic students (8%) were more likely to use alcohol on school property than White, Black, or Asian students (4, 3, and 1 percent, respectively).
- 5% reported using marijuana on school property during the previous 30 days. At school, Hispanic students (8 percent) were more likely to report using marijuana than White or Black students (4 and 5 percent, respectively).

----*Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2006*  
*National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Dept of Education, U.S. Dept of Justice*  
*<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crimeindicators/>*

## PLANNING—written policies & procedures

1. **Definitions: illicit substances, Rx medication, OTC/herbal, unknown**
2. **Safety**
3. **Confiscation/identification**
4. **Chain of custody**
5. **Evidence documentation & tracking**
6. **Reports, VADIR**
7. **Notification of law enforcement**
8. **Storage, disposal**

**Clear procedures for all staff**, including administrators, regarding all types of substances: alcohol, illicit drugs, non-prescription products, prescription medications, tobacco in all forms, inhalants

- For safety, minimize direct contact to suspected contraband. Do not touch, smell or taste. Try to use gloves or tissue to handle material.
- Place materials into a clear plastic sandwich bag and seal it.
- Label with name of person who found the material, date and time, where the item was found or taken from a student.
- Do not expect school nurse or counselor to identify contraband, due to higher numbers of counterfeits, look-alikes, new drug forms, etc.
- Keep evidence in a secure, locked location.
- Never store evidence in your personal car or locker, closet, or other personal space.
- Remember VADIR report

**NYS VADIR:**

**When are incidents involving the use, sale or possession of drugs or alcohol reportable?**

Incidents involving the use, sale or possession of drugs or alcohol must be reported regardless of the type of disciplinary or referral action that results. Such incidents must be reported even if they do not result in any disciplinary or referral action. Additionally, such incidents must be reported regardless of whether or not the perpetrator(s) is identified.

**Evidence Log**

Staff member confiscating or finding	Description of the item	Person who had item, if known	Date, time, location	Photo or copy on file?	Police report?	Who is in possession of evidence?	Evidence turned over— date? To whom?