

WHEREAS, in the United States alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse cause more deaths, illnesses, and disabilities than any other preventable cause<sup>i</sup>;

WHEREAS, by the eighth grade, approximately four of 10 youth have tried alcohol; nearly three of 10 have tried cigarettes, and nearly two of 10 have tried marijuana<sup>ii</sup>;

WHEREAS, substance abuse-related problem behaviors stress school resources and increase expenditures for security personnel and equipment, repairs and replacements resulting from vandalism, property and liability insurance, and student health services<sup>iii</sup>

WHEREAS, a nationwide health promotion and disease prevention agenda includes 25 objectives contributing to the goal of reducing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among youth<sup>iv</sup>;

WHEREAS, national and federal health agencies have made recommendations for improving school-based instruction to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among youth<sup>v-vi</sup>;

WHEREAS, school and community evidence based, interventions that delay the onset and use of ATOD's are available for implementation.<sup>vii, viii, ix</sup>

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association calls on all pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools to:

- 1) Provide ATOD prevention education within the confines of a comprehensive health education curriculum that is consistent with the National Health Education Standards
- 2) Implement and evaluate evidence based primary, secondary and tertiary ATOD use prevention strategies within a Coordinated School Health approach.
- 3) Provide program-specific training for school staff that is responsible for implementing ATOD use prevention education for the student body.

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## References

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<sup>iii</sup> National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (2001). *Malignant Neglect: Substance abuse and America's schools*. Columbia University: Author.

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<sup>iv</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2000). *Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>v</sup> The Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards (2007). *National Health Education Standards: Achieving Excellence* (2nd Edition). Atlanta: American Cancer Society.

<sup>vi</sup> National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health (2007). *Characteristics of effective health education curricula*. Retrieved January 14, 2008, from <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/SHER/characteristics/index.htm>.

<sup>vii</sup> Faggiano, F. School-based Prevention for Illicit Drug Use. *Cochrane Database System Review*(2005); (2) : CD003020 (Medline)

<sup>viii</sup> Foxcroft, DR. Longer-term primary prevention for alcohol misuse in young people: a systematic review. *Addiction*( 2003); 94(4): 397-411.

<sup>ix</sup> Spoth, R. Preventive Interventions Addressing Underage Drinking: State of Evidence and Steps Toward Public Health Impact. *PEDIATRICS*(2008) SUPPLEMENT 4. 121: s311-336.

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