



JOY HOFMEISTER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals
FROM: Joy Hofmeister
DATE: August 2016
SUBJECT: Prescription Drug Education Opportunity

Licensed pharmacists in the state of Oklahoma will soon be contacting Oklahoma schools to present a short, educational video on prescription drug abuse entitled "Road to Nowhere." This fourteen-minute video depicts the consequences a young person could face due to one bad decision--a decision to take drugs "just for fun." After viewing the video, students will be given an opportunity to ask questions of the pharmacist, who will also present additional information about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs. The entire presentation takes about 45 minutes and is offered at no charge to schools. This presentation is intended for students in Grades 4-10.

The health and social costs associated with drug abuse and addiction are astronomical in our state and nationwide. Oklahoma had the tenth-highest drug overdose death rate in 2014. We know drug abuse destroys lives, decimates families, and adversely affects our global society. Therefore, we encourage you to take advantage of this educational opportunity. The pharmacists are also willing to speak to parent groups or to present during Red Ribbon Week activities (October 23-31).

Oklahoma Statute requires training in alcohol and drug awareness for public school students. This program will assist educators in meeting that professional development requirement. Since pharmacists are prescription drug experts, they can provide valuable information as they encourage students to make smart decisions about the use of medications. In addition, pharmacists are a crucial component in our state's efforts to prevent drug abuse. Prevention education is key!

To ensure your students have the opportunity to participate in this learning experience, you will be contacted by a local pharmacist, or you may contact Debra Billingsley at dbillingsley@opha.com or (405) 557-5775.

Sincerely,

Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Public Instruction