

## Grants help students avoid AODA issues

MADISON — School districts throughout Wisconsin are sharing approximately slightly over \$900,000 in competitive grants that will help reduce or prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among students.

The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Program Grants provide funding to teach skills and supply information aimed at preventing alcohol and illegal drug use. Both individual school districts and consortium projects, in which clusters of neighboring schools work together, received competitive grant awards. The state-funded grants totaled \$908,906 and went to 48 projects serving students in 61 Wisconsin school districts including 5 consortia. Over 90 percent of applicants received funding. The WDPI has developed, solicited and awarded these grants with an intentional eye on equity.

Many of the projects receiving AODA grant funding provide a comprehensive approach to prevent or eliminate the use of alcohol and illegal drugs among students. These grants use multiple strategies and link resources from home, community agencies, and the school. Grants may be renewed for one additional year of funding through the 2022-2023 school year.

DR. UNDERLY QUOTE: In these trying times, it is especially important to keep up our heretofore successful efforts in combating alcohol misuse, drug misuse and related risky behaviors; these grant funds will go towards doing just that.

The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reported that smoking cigarettes is down from 2001; currently, less than 6% of high school students in Wisconsin smoke cigarettes compared to 33% in 2001. Current alcohol use is also down over 24% percent from 2001. Marijuana use in the past 30 days was down 6% as compared to 2001. In the 2019 report, 13% of students said that they were offered, given or sold drugs at school which was by almost half since 2001.

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