



## Wickford Middle School

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**Respect  
Reliability  
Hard Work**

Fall, 2019

Dear Parent,

Wickford Middle School, along with 45 other Rhode Island secondary schools, is implementing a Student Assistance Program based on a national model called Project SUCCESS. The program is provided by Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS) and is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Health and the school department.

The goals of Project SUCCESS are to prevent and reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and to improve school performance. To accomplish these goals, the program provides school-wide awareness programs, classroom presentations and individual and small group sessions to correct erroneous perceptions about substance use and teach skills to identify and resist social and situational pressures to use substances. Parent meetings and workshops will also be available to assist you in prevention efforts.

Stephanie McGehearty, our Student Assistance Counselor, will be responsible for implementing and coordinating the Project SUCCESS prevention and education activities at Wickford Middle School. She is at the school on Tuesday and Wednesday and has some evening hours available to see parents and make presentations to community groups. Mrs. McGehearty has a Master's Degree in Social Work, previous experience working with adolescents and specialized training in prevention and early intervention strategies. She is an employee of RISAS and is supervised by RISAS and the school.

Mrs. McGehearty is available to see students who are using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs, or have personal, school or family problems that could lead to substance abuse or other unhealthy behaviors. If you are worried about your child's behavior and would like to speak to the Student Assistance Counselor and/or have the Student Assistance Counselor see your child, please call her directly at 268-6483. All calls will be confidential.

This program has helped many students make responsible choices, has educated students about the dangers of drug use, and has helped others get outside help for related problems. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Student Assistance Program/Project SUCCESS and to make continuing improvements, the state requires us to collect data from students who participate during the school year in order to measure changes in attitudes and behaviors that decrease the risk for substance abuse. The data collected is confidential. No names are on any collected data. If, for any reason, you do not want your son or daughter to be seen by the Student Assistance Counselor, please contact the Student Assistance Counselor or me directly. We are very pleased to offer this valuable program to the students in our school.

Also, please feel free to call if you have any questions about the program.

Sincerely,

Brian Lally

Principal