

Dear Parent/DA,

In compliance with MGL Chapter 71, Section 96 & 97, Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School (LMACS) will be conducting verbal screenings of students. The intent of this screening is to help prevent students from beginning the use of alcohol, marijuana and other drugs, along with providing assistance to students if they are currently using such substances. The goal of this program is to let the students know that we are available to reinforce healthy decisions and to assist them in obtaining support, if needed, for substance use related problems.

The school nurse will conduct all screenings confidentially in private one-on-one sessions. The most commonly used substance use screening tool for adolescents in Massachusetts, the CRAFFT II screening tool, will be utilized. Students who are not using substances will have their healthy choices reinforced by the screener. The screener will provide brief feedback to any student who reports using substances, or who is at risk for future substance use. If needed, students will be referred to one of our school licensed Social Workers for further evaluation. This program focuses on substance use prevention and does not generate disciplinary action. Results of the screening will not be included in your student's school record. The screening is voluntary, and students may choose not to answer any or all of the screening questions.

The verbal screening will take place during the school year on students in their second term at LMACS. As with any school screening, you have the right to opt your child out of this screening. To opt-out, please complete the attached opt-out form and return it to the school nurse at LMACS no later than 2 weeks following your child's first day.

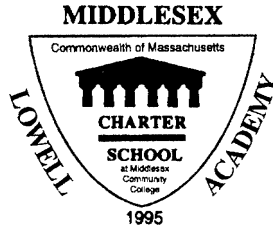
It is encouraged parents/guardians discuss this screening with their child along with the importance of avoiding substance abuse. Together, schools and parents/guardians CAN make a difference for our youth. Please contact the school nurse with any questions or concerns at (978) 656-3461.

Sincerely,

Amy Hendl, RN  
School Nurse

Please see the back of this paper for helpful links.

**Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School (LMACS)**  
Middlesex Community College  
33 Kearney Square · Lowell, MA 01852-1901 · 978-656-3165



“7 Ways to Protect Your Teen From Alcohol and Other Drugs”

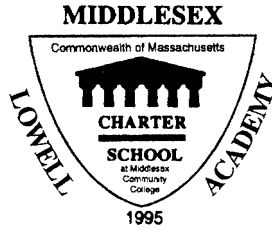
<http://files.hria.org/files/SA1011.pdf>

Underage Drinking Prevention Parent Resources from SAMHSA

<http://www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking/parent-resources>

Marijuana Talk Kit

<http://www.drugfree.org/MJTalkKit/>



## SCREENING BRIEF INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (SBIRT) SCREENING OPT-OUT

In order to exercise your parental right to opt your child out of the SBIRT screening, this form must be completed and returned to the school nurse within 2 weeks after receiving this notification.

I \_\_\_\_\_ excuse my child \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/DA Name* *Student's Name*

from the SBIRT Substance Abuse Screening.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/DA Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Return to the school nurse within 2 weeks after receiving this notification. Thank you.**