



DR. DARLENE J. RUSCITTI
Regional Superintendent
DuPage County Schools
421 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Phone: 630.407.5800
Fax: 630.407.5802

SCHOOLS COMBAT HEROIN

I would like to give a huge “thank you” to both the DuPage County Board and our school districts for their tireless efforts to combat the epidemic of heroin use and deaths caused by overdoses.

Over three years ago, the education community partnered with the DuPage County to advance numerous opportunities to better educate our youth about the dangers of heroin – and all forms of substance abuse. The County and various communities across DuPage County have implemented a multitude of educational opportunities to prevent drug abuse. Some of these events and programs were incorporated into a collective strategy including anti-heroin summits, lesson plans, and multidisciplinary drug awareness curriculums. We have been in communication with parents and students to receive their valued input and strengthen the ability to identify and assist students at risk. In addition, partnerships have been formed with anti-drug organizations including the Robert Crown Center and Parents Matter Too.

Our DuPage County schools work with parents and their children to address and provide support for emotional stress and mental illness challenges. Social workers, school counselors, deans, assistant principals, and principals meet regularly to bring forth the best practices and strategies that they are using to achieve results and for other districts and organizations to emulate.

Perhaps the most important work that our schools are engaged in is teaching the competencies needed to be successful in school and life. Not every child is prepared to make good decisions or has learned to manage their emotions constructively. Teachers help students develop skills and strategies that assist them in overcoming unhealthy peer pressure and resisting drug abuse. Mastering these skills enables students to better handle stress, control impulses, and motivate perseverance in overcoming obstacles and achieving goals. Strong research indicates that these competencies improve students’ social and emotional development, behavior, and academic performance.

Our school districts, families and students are facing a variety of challenges in our efforts to prevent drug abuse. The unique natures of our diverse communities, schools, and individuals across the County call for a multitude of effective programs and approaches, united by our shared goal: to end this epidemic that has impacted all of us. We are a team.

For inquiries please contact DuPage Regional Superintendent, Dr. Darlene J. Ruscitti, at 630-407-5770.