

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Goals/Target Population:

MONEYTALKS: A Substance Abuse Prevention Curriculum is a universal prevention program designed to engage Middle School age youth in conversations surrounding Jobs, Drugs, and the Reality of the long-term negative effects of substance use and abuse. The program is designed to partner prevention education programming and real-world corporate partners to identify the real-life effects of substance abuse on important life areas, such as employment and financial stability. Designed for community partners, teachers and other youth service providers to present in a classroom or other group setting the MONEY TALKS curriculum consists of a one-sixty-minute lesson to be offered in tandem with or independently from an interactive theatrical school assembly. The MONEY TALKS curriculum offers a multimedia mix of original music, school assembly theatrical scenarios, and traditional group education sessions. This combination is used to increase students' positive decision-making competence and ability, risky behavior assessment, and positive goal setting. The program's lesson is designed to cover the following:

Deciphering Negative and Positive Behavior: MONEYTALKS helps youth identify the link between current behaviors and future results, create and correlate the connection between identified life goals (i.e. employment and financial security) and behavior choices, evaluate the consequences of their behavior in terms of professional and social impact, as well as, long-term repercussions. Core Skills: Ability to identify and evaluate long-term repercussions for current choices.

Behavior Management: MONEYTALKS empowers young people to prevent risky behaviors that challenge future opportunities by providing insight from corporate partners about the "real-life repercussions" of substance use and abuse. Core Skills: Encourage positive choices and heightened attention to the reality of negative repercussions that follow substance use and abuse.

The MONEYTALKS session will allow students to answer session starter questions that are meant to serve as a barometer for knowledge and skill gaps. The MONEYTALKS curriculum targets Universal risk factors such as propensity for risky behavior or substance abuse, impulsive yet long-lasting behavior and decision impulsiveness. MONEYTALKS fosters Protective factors such as school and community connection, positive peer engagement, and adoption of positive social norms.

INTRODUCTION

MONEY TALKS



There isn't a single person who grows up thinking, "I want to be a drug addict!" Every person starts his or her life with a dream. A dream for who they will be, what they will achieve, and what impact they will make. Some dreams are realistic, in that they come with achievable goals, as well as, deadlines to track progress towards those goals. Some dreams remain out of reach, with no strategy to chart the path from dream to reality. In the mind of every 8th grader who will benefit from the Money talks Curriculum is an idea of what their dream job might be. When guessing what these might be, some of the obvious choices come to mind, professional sports figure, movie star, talk show host, Doctor, lawyer, policeman, nurse, or fireman. These noble ideals fill every Career Day, I have seen it first hand. Students come with their dreams in mind and never once has that dream been addiction or unemployment. Mostly, this is because most 8th graders can't make the correlation between their current choices to use drugs and the future they have in mind. To an 8th grader, drugs may represent having "fun" or "fitting in" not "losing my job, my family, or my future." We know that this is not the dream of most people and yet every day this is the reality for many.

The reality that casual use of drugs, in the beginning, more often than not leads to addiction, later on, is hard for young people to understand. Money Talks was designed to help young people understand that even the casual use of drugs can have real-life consequences that impact their careers, futures, and finances. Money Talks was not designed to imitate other "scared straight" drug prevention programs. Instead, Money Talks combines the