



SACY stands for School Age Children and Youth substance use prevention initiative.

We believe that young people who feel connected to their school, family and community are stronger and better able to make healthy decisions in all areas of their lives. We also believe that listening and talking openly about issues related to drugs and alcohol is an important step in helping young people stay healthy and feel connected in positive ways.

At SACY we use a whole school approach to encourage open dialogue and healthy communication about drug and alcohol issues in schools, families and communities. We focus on health promotion and strengths-based positive youth development; always seeing youth as valuable resources. SACY encourages youth to realize that they are important.

SACY was first implemented in 2006 and continues to expand across the district.

connection IS PREVENTION

OUR SUPPORTERS SAY...

“SACY took some students who were ‘at risk,’ brought them closer, connected them up to the school, gave them a sense of belonging and purpose.”
- Principal

“SACY is reaching youth that we do not reach well.”
- Principal

“SACY taught me communication skills that will help me to be there for my teen when it comes to talking about drugs and alcohol.”
- Parent participant

“I joined SACY to have a place to be heard.”
- Youth participant

sacy
connection IS PREVENTION
www.vsb.bc.ca/sacy



SACY is a partner project of the Vancouver Board of Education and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority in collaboration with the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Police Department, the University of BC and the Centre for Addictions Research of BC.

Production of this brochure has been made possible through a financial contribution from Health Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.



sacy
connection IS PREVENTION



What does sacy focus on?

- Drawing youth closer to family, school and community
- Building on youth strengths
- Developing youth connection to school, family and community
- Creating opportunities for youth voice to be heard via 'Capacity Cafes' and other engagement activities
- Supporting parents in maintaining strong relationships with youth
- Helping parents learn effective ways of communicating with youth
- Providing youth with opportunities to give back to their communities
- Working with schools to implement an integrated approach to substance use prevention

connection IS PREVENTION



SACY reaches out to youth, parents, teachers, schools and communities through four interrelated streams of activity.

YOUTH

Young people take an active role in SACY, developing programs in their schools that meet their needs. Peer leadership, dialogue-based workshops, teacher and parent education sessions, community service activities and strengthening youth-adult ally networks are some of the ways young people are coming together with SACY.

PARENTS

Workshops and relationship-building activities help connect parents to their teens, the school and the broader community. Parents involved with SACY are offered tools to support their child's healthy and responsible decision-making.

STEP

The SACY Teen Engagement Program is a structured, 3-day program for students experiencing difficulties at school due to drug-related or alcohol-related issues, including school suspensions. STEP provides a proactive, reflective and educational opportunity for youth including student follow up and family support/education.

TEACHERS

SACY partners with school staff to test new curriculum and to develop training for staff. Using lessons which are relevant to the lived experiences of youth, the new curriculum promotes dialogue, critical thinking and awareness among students regarding alcohol and other drug issues.

