

New York State

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## Leading the Way



Substance use disorders continue to devastate families and communities across New York State. Young people under the age of 25 and their families are particularly impacted. In the past years, New York State made addressing substance use, and particularly heroin and opiate abuse a priority in both budget and legislation.

Substance use disorders continue to be a real and critical concern, and as a community, we must do better to support our children and families in crisis.

Children and young adults in recovery are at high risk of relapse, especially as they return to their home/school environments. They go back to the people, places and things that often create triggers that can lead to using substances as a coping mechanism.

## Supports for Recovery High Schools, and the Prevention and Treatment of Heroin and Opioid Abuse

### NYS PTA supports:

- Continued expansion and access to recovery high school programs;
- Authorizing BOCES non-component school districts, including the Big Five City School Districts, to participate in Recovery High Schools;
- The Opioid Epidemic Surcharge of \$0.02 per morphine milligram on every first sale of opioid in NYS to be paid by manufacturers;
- The \$26 million increase (4.5%) in operating and capital support for Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) for prevention, treatment and recovery programs, residential services and public awareness and education;
- Continued expansion of Adolescent Clubhouses (Recovery Youth Clubhouses), and the proposal for four new clubhouses – for a total of 15 statewide;
- The expansion of Recovery Community Organizations and Recovery Community Outreach Centers in all counties; and
- The expansion of fully funded Peer Engagement Specialists and Family Support Navigators (2 per county).

Recovery schools need to be in ALL communities, where students can develop sober support systems while working towards meeting educational requirements to earn their high school diploma.

Recovery schools are particularly important in communities where there are little to no alternatives for young people. Managing the stress of school, and being able to make friends without the peer pressure to engage in risky behaviors, are both extremely important for youth who need to develop the skills to navigate the adolescent world.

Many of these students also have co-occurring mental health needs and as such, need to learn how to address the emotional turmoil with cognitive behavioral support. Funds need to be provided not just to school systems, but to OASAS licensed treatment programs to work together to meet the recovering needs of young people.

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