

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.

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.

As a community, we must do better to support our children and families in crisis.

Supports for Recovery High Schools, and the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders

NYS PTA strongly supports the \$1 million in start-up grants for the creation of new recovery high schools, and call for an increase to at least \$5 million in this coming school year.

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. The stress of school and being able to make friends without the peer pressure to engage in risky behaviors, is 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 disorders 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.

We also support the increase of \$26 million (4.1 percent) in operating and capital support for OASAS to continue to enhance prevention, treatment and recovery programs, residential service opportunities, and public awareness and education activities, including:

- adding nearly 200 new residential beds;
- funding over 1,200 new OTP slots;
- \$3.75 million in funding to support medication-assisted treatment in local jails; and
- funding and making permanent the newly created ombudsman, a joint program between OASAS and OMH, which helps individuals and their families navigate the behavioral health care system to ensure people have access to necessary care and services.

Many of these students also have co-occurring mental health disorders and as such, need to learn how to address the emotional turmoil with cognitive behavioral support utilizing evidence-based clinical strategies.

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