

# LONG ISLAND COVENANT TO END THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

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## Public Commitment by Educational Leaders

April 26, 2017

Each of our schools and school districts will continue to teach young people about the dangers of alcohol and drug use. We will continue to provide counseling to students who face challenges related to substance abuse. We will continue to raise awareness among students and parents about the opioid epidemic. We will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that our school facilities are drug-free. *But we know that these efforts aren't enough.* Going forward, we will expand our work with students, faculty, parents and other community institutions to learn more about this epidemic and to develop and implement effective practices for preventing substance abuse among students.

SPECIFICALLY, BY OCTOBER 26, 2017:

- We will work to develop a **comprehensive K-12 substance-abuse prevention and harm reduction plan** for our districts or schools, which will include:
  - Creation of student peer-support and peer-education networks to ensure that each high school student has peers committed and prepared to look out for her/his well-being related to substance abuse.
  - Age-appropriate curricula for every grade to equip young people with the tools they need to keep substance abuse out of their lives.
  - Early identification of students experiencing stresses that may predispose them to substance abuse, and investment in supportive relationships with these students.
  - High-quality professional development on dealing with substance-abuse issues.
  - Capacity to administer naloxone (Narcan) in every high school.
  - Incorporation of practices into the school day to reduce student stress.
- We will expand our **ongoing collaboration among educators** across school and district lines in order to identify shared challenges, exchange best practices, and develop joint strategies for responding to this epidemic. We will work to free up educators to participate in these ongoing efforts, based on their interests, during work time.

We will bring members of our school communities to the October 26 event to report on our work and hold one another accountable.