



Parent Collaborative Agreement for Safe Teen Socializing

The Urban School Parents' Association believes that by collaborating and communicating with each other, we can help keep our children safe as they explore boundaries in social settings. While we knew many of the parents/guardians of our children's middle school friends, we've found this becomes more difficult in high school. So we've created this agreement to signal our commitment to reach out to one another and to affirm a community responsibility as our children journey through high school. Please review the document below. If you agree with the principles embodied in it, please indicate your agreement in the space provided below.

I will not knowingly allow teens to use drugs or alcohol in my house in the context of a social gathering or party.

- Research shows that access to substances increases the risk for addiction.
- Research also shows that risk of addiction to drugs and alcohol is enhanced in teenagers because their brains are still developing.

I will take steps to monitor access to medications and alcohol in my house.

- Research shows that abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications by teens is on the rise.

If my child is hosting a social gathering, I will welcome calls from other parents to discuss the plans for supervision.

- While there may be pressure on us from our teens NOT to talk to one another about social gatherings, communication among parents will enhance the safety of the community.

I will call the host parents if I hear that there will be a social gathering at their house and I think/know that they are not home.

- There is social pressure on teens to host parties in their homes when parents are away. This practice is dangerous for the teens, as well as for the property.

I will act assertively to prevent a teen from driving if I suspect he or she has been drinking or using drugs. Please do the same for me if you suspect my child is under the influence and intending to drive.

- Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death in teens.

I want to know if my child appears to be impaired from alcohol or drugs, so that I can arrange to get him or her home safely. I want to know if you witness my child drinking or using drugs.

- Our children desire and deserve independence and the opportunity to explore boundaries, but there are situations in which a conversation between responsible adults is necessary in the interests of safety.