



**MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 37  
 195 McGregor Street, Suite 201  
 Manchester, NH 03102  
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**Bolgen Vargas, Ed.D.**  
 Superintendent of Schools

**David M. Ryan**  
 Assistant Superintendent  
 Curriculum & Instruction

**Christine D. Martin, Ed.D.**  
 Assistant Superintendent  
 Elementary Education

**Karen DeFrancis**  
 Business Administrator

**Pamela D. Hogan**  
 Director of Human Resources

February 16, 2017

Dear parents and guardians:

As you know, our city has been facing an epidemic of opioid abuse. Many of our students' lives have been impacted by the dangers of drug use and addiction, either directly or indirectly. One of the best deterrents to this threat is education and awareness.

Fortunately, we have some very reliable partners to help us in our efforts. The Drug Enforcement Administration has included Manchester as part of its nationwide campaign, called the DEA 360 Strategy, which takes advantage of law enforcement and community collaborations to combat the fentanyl, heroin and pharmaceutical opioid epidemic. DEA 360 is a comprehensive law enforcement and prevention strategy to help cities deal with the heroin and prescription drug abuse epidemic and its associated violent crime. More information can be found at <https://www.dea.gov/prevention/360-strategy/360-strategy.shtml>.

Among the strategy initiatives is the New Hampshire Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness, hosted by the DEA 360 Strategy and the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation. The event is a **half-day program** designed to educate middle and high school students about the dangers of opioid addiction while promoting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Our schools have been invited to participate by bringing our students to the summit at the SNHU Arena on March 7. The Summit will feature a showing of "If Only," a short film co-produced by James Wahlberg that addresses the harmful effects of opioid abuse and addiction. Keynote speaker Jeff Allison, a New England native and former professional baseball pitcher, will share his personal story of addiction and recovery. Students also will hear from other speakers about their personal or family experiences and be engaged in discussions about the critical role youth can play in preventing opioid abuse.

More information about the New Hampshire Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness can be found at [www.drugfreeisuptomenh.org](http://www.drugfreeisuptomenh.org).

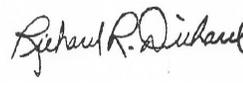
There is no cost to attend this event. Bag lunches will be made available to students or if they prefer, the concession stands at the arena will be open for those who wish to purchase a lunch at the event. **STUDENT(S) MAY OPT-OUT OF THIS EVENT. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR STUDENT(S) NOT ATTEND THIS EVENT, PLEASE FILL OUT THE LINES BELOW AND HAVE THEM RETURN THIS LETTER TO THE MAIN OFFICE AT SCHOOL BEFORE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd.**

Sincerely,

  
 Bolgen Vargas, Ed.D.  
 Superintendent

  
 John Vaccarezza,  
 Principal, CHS

  
 Arthur Adamakos,  
 Principal, MHS

  
 Richard Dichard  
 Principal, WHS

  
 Karen Machado  
 Principal, MSTHS

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to attend the New Hampshire Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness on March 7.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_