

## ***Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS)***



Is a school and community-based substance use prevention and mental health promotion agency funded by the Department of Behavioral Health Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) and Rhode Island school districts since 1987.

Our core service, Project SUCCESS (Schools Using Coordinated Community Efforts to Strengthen Students) began as a pilot program in 4 Rhode Island high schools, and as of September 1, 2021, RISAS will be implementing Project SUCCESS in 70 middle and high schools representing 33 school districts.

Project SUCCESS is located in schools where adolescents have easy access to highly trained counselors and where alcohol and other drug use-related risk factors, such as drinking at an early age, poor academic performance, tardiness, absenteeism and mental health problems are more likely to be detected than at home. We embed master's degree level counselors in the school to provide a wide range of prevention and early intervention services. Parents, school administrators, teachers and others in the community find Project SUCCESS a highly effective model for addressing alcohol, drug and other problems which negatively impact academic success and attendance and a key component of social emotional learning (SEL).

A valuable characteristic of Project SUCCESS is its ability to identify and help youth, especially those at high risk, before the onset of substance use and mental health problems. This early detection and intervention has proven effective in delaying the initiation and use of alcohol and other drugs, and reducing the resultant school/life problems.

For More information about our services go to [www.risas.org](http://www.risas.org)

### **RISAS**

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