

The Health Education department received a grant, Project Here, which included a comprehensive, evidence based curriculum for grades 4-9 and training on alcohol, tobacco, opioids and substance abuse. Teachers also have access to an online toolkit containing dozens of current research-based resources from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to supplement instruction and stay current in these issues. Health Educators have had professional development with Rob Pezzella in the law and policies relating to marijuana, opioids and other substances. Subsequent training is scheduled.

Health teachers examined the Worcester Youth Risk Behavior Survey to observe trends and inform their curriculum implementation in specific areas dealing with substance abuse.

All Health Educators and Sullivan Middle School teachers were trained in the dangers of tobacco and vaping by Tina Grosowski, MA Project Coordinator, Central MA Tobacco Free Community Partnership, Department of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School at monthly staff meetings.

UMMHC is giving a remote panel discussion on the dangers of tobacco and vaping through Facebook Live with high school Health Education Classes at Burncoat, South, Doherty and Claremont. . During this panel discussion, students will be able to ask professionals from UMMHC, along with students from "the 84", questions they have about substance abuse. This is done during their Health Education class and questions from students can be asked remotely during the informative conversation.