



IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE USE IN OUR SCHOOLS

SBIRT
*Screening, Brief Intervention,
Referral to Treatment*

Edited August 24, 2017

WHAT IS SBIRT?

- SBIRT is a structured conversation to promote prevention and to identify early risk factors for substance use in both middle and high school students
- SBIRT is not a:
 - targeted screening
 - treatment program
 - “train the trainer” program – only Dept. of Public Health (DPH) approved training



SBIRT SCREENING PROCESS

- Screening of students in grades 7 and 9
- Brief Intervention using the CRAFFT Tool
- Positive reinforcement based on Motivational Interviewing (MI) principles
- Referral: in-school (guidance/adjustment counselors; social workers), other available in-school resources, and out-of-school (primary care providers and other community) resources



MGL CH 71, SECTION 97

- Law was signed on March 14, 2016
- Implementation date is the 2017-2018 school year
- A verbal screening tool will be used to screen students for substance use disorders
- Based upon DESE/DPH recommendations, two different grades will be screened (students in grades 7 and 9)



OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE LAW

- Parents/Guardians will be notified at the start of the school year
- Students and/or parents/guardians may opt out in writing
- All responses are confidential – no disclosure is made without prior written consent unless there is a medical emergency
- No records identifying students shall be made in any form, written, electronic or otherwise
- Non-identifiable data is sent to DPH within 90 days
- Only the DESE/DPH screening tool is to be used



CONSENT

- Inform parents/guardians and students prior to SBIRT screening day
- Keep consistent with current practice for other health screenings
- Provide information related to screening process and confidentiality
- Allow for Opt Out

