

## PROJECT 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE VISITS NEW ENGLAND TO COMBAT REGIONAL DRUG PROBLEM

New England Schools will soon welcome Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, a national initiative of the notMYkid organization that educates parents, schools and children on substance abuse prevention. Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade serves as a family-oriented prevention resource that helps parents develop plans to communicate and maintain an early, but ongoing dialogue with their children about the perils of substance abuse, incorporating drug testing as a cornerstone of deterrence.

Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade will be presenting its middle school drug prevention program at the New England League of Middle Schools conference in Providence, RI March 31 and April 1 and Massachusetts Juvenile Police Officer's Association/National Association of School Resource Officers Region 4 conference in Leominster, MA April 1 and 2. Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade will also be speaking to parents of middle school students in the area about strategies to keep their families drug-free.

Representatives of Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade were invited to present the program in New England by representatives from M.J.P.O.A. and NASRO Region 4. Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade made the decision to visit based on the state's current battle against methamphetamine, prescription drugs and overall adolescent drug use. Lacy Lowrey, Manager of National Programming and Development for Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, says the statistics are alarming and require immediate attention.

"Drug use triples between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, of kids who experiment with at least one drug 34% will become regular users by the end of the year" Lowrey said. "Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade is prepared to educate parents about drugs and give them the necessary tools to keep their families' drug free."

The program is free to schools and parents, and each family that attends learns about drug issues, trends, terminology and paraphernalia. Each family that attends receives a free First Check home drug test kit and information about creating their own family drug prevention plan.

"Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade understands that there are many forces in children's lives that may make them susceptible to drug use," Lowrey said. "However, through open communication and taking proactive steps such as home drug testing, we can battle these influences and help our children and our communities with this growing problem."

Middle schools and high schools interested in hosting a free Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade presentation can e-mail Lacy Lowrey at [lacy@notmykid.org](mailto:lacy@notmykid.org) or call 602-652-0163. Space is limited. For more information about notMYkid and Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, please visit [www.notMYkid.org](http://www.notMYkid.org) or [www.Project7thGrade.org](http://www.Project7thGrade.org).

notMYkid was founded in 2000 and is dedicated to helping parents, teens, educators and communities with adolescent behavioral health issues. Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade launched in 2004 and is in all 50 states. The program is available for free and partners with schools, community groups and police departments all across the country to educate parents about drug issues, trends, terminology, and paraphernalia and teach them how to create a proactive drug prevention plan for their family. Project 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and notMYkid educated over 100,000 people in 2007.

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