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## Understanding Substance Abuse in School Aged Children: "Best Practices for Assessment and Intervention"

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**Time:** 1 or 2 Day Training

**Suggested Audience:** Teachers, School Counseling Staff, School Nurses and Administrators

**Instructor/Trainer:** Arthur C. Friedman, Ph.D., LICSW, MPGS  
National expert on child sexual abuse and exploitation

Alcohol and drug abuse has a significant impact on children, families and schools. For teachers, school counseling staff, nurses and school administrators, the identification of potential substance use, abuse and dependency in students is critical to effectively meeting their needs. This training will provide an overview of illicit and prescribed substances in adults, teens and children and how schools can intervene appropriately. Dr. Friedman will include specific information on the symptoms and behaviors associated with each substance as well as how to use several addiction screening tools for assessment. We will also focus on case examples and case vignettes from the participants (and Trainer) to illustrate the many clinical, social, family and community issues associated with substance abuse. Additional topic areas will include a description of the service delivery and treatment system, self-help resources, family and community resources and the "role" of school personnel in drug and/or alcohol screening, assessment and brief treatment.

Participants in the one-day training will receive a comprehensive overview of alcohol and drug addiction, including the most current research findings on identification, screening and assessment. Best practices related to school-based interventions for students and families will be covered. The two-day training will cover these same topics and will also provide an opportunity for participants to apply the presented material to case examples and case vignettes, as well as to address any specialized needs of their school systems and/or staff roles in their specific settings. The application of screening and assessment tools for the target population will also be provided on Day Two.

Dr. Friedman has worked in the substance abuse field for over 30 years and has served as a Consultant to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services as a clinical expert, licensing specialist, researcher and contract manager. He has extensive experience working with a diverse population including adolescents, families, the dually disordered, problem gamblers, opiate addicts and addiction work with communities of color.