



NEW FOR RELEASE

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EAST WILLISTON-ROSLYN COALITION TAKES STRONG STAND DURING PROM AND GRADUATION SEASON

Unsupervised Prom and Graduation Parties Are Focus of Concern for the Well being of our Teens

The East Williston/Roslyn Community Coalition joins the Office of National Drug Control (Parents: The AntiDrug.com) to inform parents that Prom and Graduation Season can contribute to many at-risk behaviors that threaten the well-being of our young people. During this time, there are many situations in which teens may consider taking risks, especially underage drinking and drug use. According to the 2005 "Monitoring the Future" Survey, nearly one in three high school seniors were drunk in the last month, and more than one in five used an illicit drug in the last 30 days.¹

The Coalition has taken a strong position against unsupervised prom and graduation parties at which excessive drinking, drug use and other unacceptable behaviors by high school students are common and well documented. The Coalition reminds parents that under Nassau County's Social Host Law, it is illegal to serve alcohol to minors under the age of 21. Doing so can subject you to fines and arrest. The Coalition supports Nassau County's Social Host Law and strongly suggests parents seek safe, chaperoned and alcohol free parties when celebrating prom and graduation milestones. Even though they are graduating from high school, our teens need us now as much as ever. According to the Office of National Drug Control, there are many ways we can help keep our teens safe and healthy:

- **REINFORCE YOUR EXPECTATIONS**

Throughout their high school years, you've set rules and established the consequences for breaking them. Perhaps you've loosened up on a few rules, like curfew. But be clear - drinking or drug use remain unacceptable. Being an upperclassman has privileges, but it also has responsibilities.

- **ENCOURAGE YOUR TEENS TO MAKE EACH MOMENT COUNT:**

Your teens only get one senior year. Let them know you don't want them to miss out on things because of bad choices, like drinking or drug use. One bad choice could change their lives forever.

- **PROVIDE SAFE ALTERNATIVES:**

Parties abound during senior year. Parents are again reminded of Nassau County's Social Host Law and should plan chaperoned alcohol-free parties when celebrating prom or graduation.

- **SET A GOOD EXAMPLE**

Don't let anyone convince you that it's a good idea for teens to drink or use marijuana under your supervision. It sends the wrong message, it may lead your teen to make other bad choices, and could subject you to civil or criminal penalties.

About the Coalition:

The Coalition was formed in 2003 by parents, school officials, clergy and law enforcement officials in the East Williston and Roslyn communities to address deep concerns about substance abuse by young people and the at-risk behaviors that both contribute to and are caused by the use of drugs and alcohol. In 2006 the Coalition became an independent, not-for profit organization with a mission to educate parents about the dangerous behaviors in which many of our young people are engaged and the ways in which those behaviors may be reduced.

With the support of a \$10,000 legislative grant, the Coalition has engaged guest speakers, disseminated pertinent materials and has developed a website to advance its goals. The coalition is currently planning its parent education programs for the 2008-09 school year.

For more information regarding this article or the Coalition, please contact Cathy Samuels, Co-President at 248-3489.

¹ Parents.theAntiDrug "Senior Year Editable Flyer" Office of National Drug Control Policy.