Dear Parent or Guardian:

As your child’s caregiver, we know that you desire the best resources for your child and the young people in our community. Our School Climate Survey data consistently demonstrates that a small number of Longmeadow students try alcohol, marijuana and other drugs in middle school, but by the end of high school, many more students report substance use.

In order to help prevent students from starting to use substances, or at least to delay the start of use, LPS nursing staff will be providing interview‐based screening for 7th and 9th grade students about the use of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. This screening will use the most commonly used substance use screening tool in Massachusetts, the CRAFFT. A copy of the screening tool is enclosed for your review. Student screening sessions will be brief (5‐10 minutes) and conducted confidentially in a private, one‐on‐one sessions during other routine screenings conducted by the school nurse in their building. Students who are not using substances will have their healthy choices reinforced by the screener if no further follow up is required. The screener will provide brief counseling to any student who reports using substances, or is at risk for future substance use, and will contact parents and refer the student to a medical provider for evaluation and treatment as needed. Although what your child discusses with the screener is confidential, we will inform you if your student’s health or safety is at risk. Results of the screening will not be included in your student’s school record. Your student will be handed back their completed screen, which has helpful information for teens on the reverse.

As with any school screening, you have the right to opt your child out of this screening. Please contact the Director of Pupil Services at 565-4200 if you wish to do so.

One way to prevent youth substance use is to talk with your child about substance use. For ideas

on how to begin these conversations, please visit www.closecommunity.org or refer to the Family Checkup resource included in this packet. Together, schools and parents CAN make a difference for our youth.

Sincerely,

Jean Fontaine Mary O’Neill

LPS Director of Pupil Services School Nurse
Longmeadow High School