



Manchester Public Schools

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Manchester High School to host Gambling Prevention Presentation

(Manchester, CT—November 5, 2008) It is estimated that 4 to 8 percent of young adults between the ages of 12 – 17 meet the criteria for a gambling problem. Even more startling, 4 to 8 million U.S. adults are considered problem gamblers. These statistics will be the focus of a presentation by the East River Action Substance Elimination (ERASE) branch of the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) November 12, at Manchester High School's Freshman Center Community Room 293 at 7 p.m. The program is sponsored by the school's Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA).

According to the CCPG web site, "Connecticut youth are growing up in a society where legalized gambling is a socially acceptable, widely promoted, and highly visible recreational activity. In this context, it is not surprising that many young people in Connecticut under the age of 18 are gambling."

In an effort to educate parents about the gambling problem among youth, ERASE will provide parents with useful information about this growing issue. "We want to be proactive in our approach to educating parents about gambling and what they can do in the event their child has a problem," said PTSA Vice-President Cheryl Scribner, who coordinated the event. "The consequences are obvious, mounting debt, dropping out-of-school, isolation from family and friends, depression and even suicide," explained Scribner.

"Research has shown that just as with other addictions, problem gambling has 'risk factors' that can increase a person's susceptibility to an addiction. Many of the problem gambling studies conducted with young people and problem gambling show that younger individuals are more at-risk than adults of developing a gambling problem," said CCPG Executive Director Bonnie Smith. Risk factors can include an early 'big win' mentality, a family history of problem gambling, loneliness or boredom, low self-esteem and poor coping skills.

“We want to encourage parents in the Manchester community to attend this presentation and learn more about this issue,” added Smith.

This is just one of many programs designed for parents, said PTSA President Steve Gates. “We want to do everything we can to provide meaningful information sessions that address a variety of issues and challenges facing our high school students,” explained Gates. Parents are encouraged to check the high school’s web site for future programming. The site is located at <http://mhsweb.ci.manchester.ct.us/>

For more information about the presentation, contact Manchester High School at (860) 647-3521.

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