

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Your son or daughter is a first-year college student - what an exciting time! It is a mix of preparation and anticipation, excitement, and apprehension. When students enter college, they are confronted with the opportunities and challenges of campus culture. You are at a turning point in your relationship with your son or daughter. He or she will be away from home and your rules, perhaps for the first time. They may not admit it, but they feel insecure in a new social setting and want badly to fit in.

Is your son or daughter prepared? You can be a big help in your student's successful transition to college life. This brochure provides you with up-to-date information that will help you talk with your son or daughter about drinking.



Most college students make responsible decisions about the use of alcohol. But balancing new experiences can be difficult.



For many parents and young adults, discussing the subject of alcohol is not easy. You may be unsure of when or how to begin and your student may try to dodge the conversation. However, it is important for you to be aware of the risks and consequences associated with alcohol so you can help your student be aware.

The use of alcohol while in college is not a "rite of passage" as some students and parents may believe. Dangerous drinking among college students can lead to negative behavior causing academic or legal problems and personal humiliation.

It is important to understand the risks associated with drinking.

For years, scare tactics have been used to try to curb behavior, but this strategy does not always work. It is much more effective for you to help your student understand that "not everyone is doing it." Students should be aware that across Pennsylvania students are developing positive behaviors. They are decreasing their drinking and opting for more healthy activities.

PLCB DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

This information is not intended to be legal advice, but merely conveys information pertinent to alcohol-related offenses. For more information or further clarification, please contact your local District Attorney's Office or a private attorney.

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's Bureau of Alcohol Education offers a variety of alcohol education materials free of charge.

For more information, please contact us:

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
Bureau of Alcohol Education
Northwest Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17124-0001
www.lcb.state.pa.us

Or call our toll-free line:
1 (800) 453-PLCB (7522)

If using a TTY line, please call:
(717) 772-3725



LCB-162 11/10
Reorder Item #0162

a guide for
PARENTS of
1ST year
COLLEGE STUDENTS

CURRENTLY IN PENNSYLVANIA

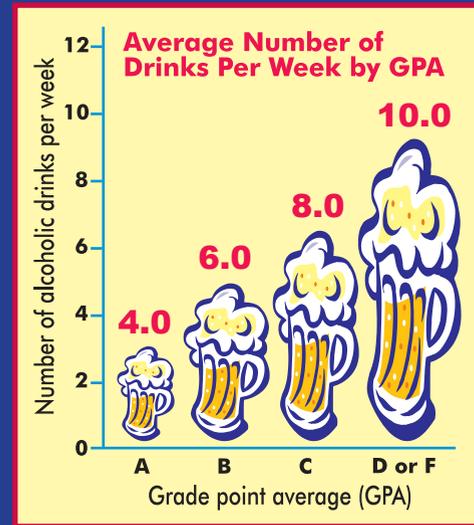
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has taken a strong stance to curb underage drinking and heavy drinking by college students. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, in cooperation with state agencies and universities, has developed local, regional, and statewide coalitions with Institutions of Higher Education to promote environmental management strategies to reduce dangerous drinking among college students. These coalitions are only one piece to solving the problem. An important component is you, the parent. This brochure will help you learn about alcohol laws, penalties, dangers, and intervention techniques, as well as positive changes in the campus environment.



THE LAW IN PENNSYLVANIA

A youth (under age 21) commits a summary offense if he or she attempts to purchase, purchases, consumes, possesses, or knowingly and intentionally transports any liquor or malt or brewed beverages. The penalty for a first offense of this nature is a \$300 fine and/or 90 days in jail and 90 days suspension of driving privileges. Knowingly and falsely misrepresenting your age for the purpose of buying alcohol is punishable with up to a \$300 fine, 90 days in jail, and 90 days license suspension. Manufacturing, altering, or selling an identification card to falsely represent identity, birth date or age is punishable with a fine up to \$5,000 and 2 years in jail. A driver, under age 21, with a blood alcohol level of .02% or higher could lose his or her license for up to a year, spend up to 24 months in jail and be fined up to \$5,000.

Knowing the law is important, but it is not enough. Your student's college or university can add consequences in addition to the civil charges. These can include academic probation, loss of housing, fines, suspension and expulsion. Talk to your student about these issues before they head off to campus and continue communication while they are on campus.



http://www.higheredcenter.org/pubs/factsheets/fact_sheet2.html

RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

- Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board - www.lcb.state.pa.us
- Higher Education Center - www.edc.org/hec or The Parent Connection - www.edc.org/hec/parents
- Promising Practices: Campus Alcohol Strategies for Alcohol and other Drug Prevention - www.promprac.gmu.edu
- Facts on Tap - www.factsontap.org
- Prevention Research Institute - www.askpri.org



PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act became law in 1998. Congress gave colleges and universities the green light to disclose alcohol or controlled substance violations to parents. The law permits, but does not require, schools to notify parents any time a student under 21 violates drug or alcohol laws. As the parent or guardian of a first-year student, **YOU should share this information with your son or daughter to ensure that their college years are safe and productive.** Check with the college's Dean of Students or Student Affairs Office to find out if your child's school practices parental notification.

CAREER CONSEQUENCES

Today, young adults are held responsible for their decisions. They need accurate information to make wise choices. You are investing in your son's or daughter's future by providing the information and support to help him or her make responsible decisions. The effects of college drinking may reach beyond the classroom. More and more companies are doing background checks on potential employees. Employers are searching web sites such as MySpace and Facebook for irresponsible behavior related to alcohol use by potential employees. Graduates may be denied employment opportunities due to alcohol-related criminal convictions.

COMMUNICATION

Show you care when you talk to your son or daughter. You need to draw the line, but understand your son or daughter will face challenges as they grow up. Most of all, believe in your own power to help your son or daughter avoid trouble by:

- being a good role model,
- being factual and straightforward,
- providing accurate information, and
- avoiding scare tactics.



It is important to talk with your son or daughter. You do not need to cover every topic in one conversation, and remember, lecturing will not help you get your message across. Some things to remember or address would be:

VALUES - What is important to the family

PRIORITIES - Make sure important things get done, like school work

SECURITY - Stay safe

HAVE FUN - There are many events and activities that are not alcohol related

BE CLEAR - Make sure your message is understood

COMMON SENSE - Use it

CONSEQUENCES - Laws, future, health