



2026 Cannabis Prevention and Awareness Regional Trainings **Featuring: Halpern-Felsher REACH Lab, Stanford Medicine, Department of Pediatrics**

<p>Albany – New York Tuesday, March 17, 2026 Albany Capital Center 55 Eagle St, Albany, NY 12207 9:00am – 3:00pm ET</p> <p><u>Registration Link for March 17, 2026 - Albany</u></p>	<p>Long Island – New York Thursday, March 19, 2026 Hofstra University 1000 Hempstead Tpke, Hempstead, NY 11549 9:00am – 3:00pm ET</p> <p><u>Registration Link for March 19, 2026 - Hempstead/Long Island</u></p>
<p>Rochester – New York Tuesday, April 28, 2026 Strong National Museum of Play 1 Manhattan Square Dr, Rochester, NY 14607 9:00am – 3:00pm ET</p> <p><u>Registration Link for April 28, 2026 - Rochester</u></p>	<p>Binghamton – New York Thursday, April 30, 2026 Holiday Inn Binghamton 2-8 Hawley Street Binghamton, NY 13901 9:00am – 3:00pm ET</p> <p><u>Registration Link for April 30, 2026 - Binghamton</u></p>

Use the links embedded in the site information above to register for the training. Registration for each date/site is limited to 120 participants, on a first-come basis. You may choose to attend any of the four locations, but please only choose one date/site in total.

For more information regarding the REACH LAB and their prevention and intervention curriculums and resources, please visit: <https://med.stanford.edu/halpern-felsher-reach-lab.html> Please direct any questions or requests for additional information to Prevention@oasas.ny.gov.

Each in-person training will focus on three of REACH Lab's Cannabis Prevention and Awareness Curriculums and Interventions, as well as the many additional resources, educational videos, posters, and other materials the REACH Lab offers:

1. [SMART Talk](#)

The Stanford REACH Lab's **Smart Talk: Cannabis Awareness and Prevention curriculum** is part of the Cannabis Awareness and Prevention Toolkit. Smart Talk is an evidence-based curriculum with lessons focused on the brain and other health effects, impact on the environment, marketing, and stress and coping. The curriculum is aimed at addressing key factors associated with youth cannabis use, including changing adolescents' attitudes towards and misperceptions about cannabis; increasing their refusal skills toward marketing and social media; reducing stress and depression which have been linked to initiation and use; improving coping skills; and decreasing intentions and actual use of all cannabis products. The REACH Lab will provide an overview of this curriculum, and then will have time for attendees to dive in and practice teaching some of the lessons. There are elementary (2 lessons), middle (5 lessons), and high school (5 lessons) versions; Spanish versions of the curriculum are also available. The curriculum is aligned with National Health Education Standards, so it can be easily integrated into Health classes.

2. [Safety First: Comprehensive Drug Education and Intervention](#)

The REACH Lab's Safety First: Comprehensive Drug Education and Intervention is made up of 13 lessons focused on preventing adolescent ATOD use, including cannabis, e-cigarettes, alcohol, opioids/fentanyl, psychedelics, and other drugs; brain and addiction; and how marketing influences youth use. The purpose of Safety First is to encourage youth to abstain from use, but this curriculum also includes a clear harm-reduction message for youth who are experimenting or using, to provide students with scientifically accurate information to empower them to quit and/or reduce harm, should they choose to continue to use. The curriculum is aligned with National Health Education Standards, so it can be easily integrated into Health classes. While Safety First was developed mostly for high school students, many middle schools and colleges are also implementing this curriculum. This presentation will provide an overview and mini training on using Safety First.

3. [Healthy Futures: Alternative-to-Suspension and Cessation Program](#)

The REACH Lab's Healthy Futures: Alternative-to-Suspension interventions are geared for students who have been found to be using cannabis, and/or for students who are interested in trying to quit. These interventions are based on the fundamentals of motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy, stages of change, and restorative practices. The two versions of this curriculum are:

- **MY Healthy Futures** is a self-paced course which schools can assign to a student. This course provides slides, activities, and interactive materials, using the principals of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral therapy, to help students understand the harms of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, to help identify reasons for and costs of using, to help students cope with stress, and to provide resources to help students quit.
- **OUR Healthy Futures** is a teacher/counselor led intervention which has two versions: a two- and a four-hour version. The two-hour version can be facilitated with just one student or in a group setting. It allows for warm-up questions interspersed between slides that allow students to share what they know about each topic. The four-hour version builds on the two-hour version by allowing time for personal reflection following each topic. This version allows for more individual introspection and/or group discussion (if implemented in a group setting).