



CCHD ALTERNATIVE TO SUSPENSION PROGRAM



Health Department
CLEVELAND COUNTY

SOAR (Student Options and Redirection) is a 4-session education/early intervention program developed for youth who violate substance use policies of the Cleveland County School System and/or North Carolina laws governing underage drinking.

Students from Cleveland County Schools may be referred for violations related to alcohol, tobacco/e-cigarettes, or marijuana/THC use, prescription drug misuse, or other substances resulting in a 10-day out of school suspension from school. The program provides education, skills and resources to support young people making healthy decisions regarding substance use.

Referrals are made:

- By the school as an approach to reduce suspension for failure to follow substance use policy.
- By the judicial system - court officials and/or attorneys for violations of NC underage drinking laws.
- By local DSS, church officials, physicians, parents/guardians or any community program serving youth.

Session Details:

- **Session 1** - The student and parent/guardian are interviewed, and information is gathered by the assigned health educator. SASSI (Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory) is administered with the student to help assess the level of substance use and appropriate education/intervention needed.
- **Session 2** - SASSI results are shared, and student will receive tailored education and lessons.
- **Session 3** - Student will receive tailored education and lessons.
- **Session 4** - Student and parent/guardian will participate in goal setting and parental expectations for student.

An average session is about 45-60 minutes. The student must attend all 4 sessions, and the parent/guardian must attend sessions 1 and 4.

Program Requirements:

- **Call 980-484-5139 to schedule the first session immediately following a suspension.**
- **Attendance:** Students must attend all 4 sessions with the program facilitator as scheduled; the parent/guardian must attend sessions 1 and 4. Session appointments are typically scheduled during normal business hours, Monday – Friday between 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Effort is made to accommodate each client's schedule. Sessions are held at the Cleveland County Health Department – 200 South Post Road, Shelby, NC 28152.
- **Program fee - A fee of \$40.00 is due by the end of the 4th session of the program.**

Failure to attend all sessions and/or pay the program fee will result in a noncompliance notice to the referring source.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please call: 980-484-5139

Persons with disabilities. If you require assistance as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please notify us of your needs when you request a service or program. Participation in Health Department Services is without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.