

# Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals (DITEP)

## INTRODUCTION

The DITEP Program has trained hundreds of educators over the past several years in Vermont schools, including:

School Nurses | Administrators | Teachers | Student Assistance Professionals (SAP) | School Resource Officers (SRO)

The DITEP training **does not** qualify participants as drug recognition experts (DREs). The training is to make school nurses, principals, and school resource officers competent and confident in evaluating and document students suspected of abusing and being impaired by alcohol and other drugs.

## COURSE CONTENT

**DAY 1** is for individuals affiliated with schools and for high-level administrators since it focuses on general drug impairment and policies.

**DAY 2** is best suited for those who conduct hands on evaluations, such as nurses and SAPs.

<b>DAY ONE</b>	<b>DAY TWO</b>
Introduction and Overview	Eye Examinations
Drugs in Society	Vital Signs
Policy, Procedures, and Rules	Divided Attention Tests
Overview of Alcohol	Poly Drugs
Drug Identification, Categories and Effects	Assessment Process
Contacting the Parent(s)	Conclusion
References	

## PROGRAM HISTORY

The 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), indicated that an estimated 19.5 million Americans (8.2% of the population aged 12 or older) had used an illicit drug during the previous month. Drug abuse, whether it involves controlled substances or the misuse of prescription drugs, has permeated almost every level of society to some degree. In 2003, an estimated 11 million people reported driving under the influence of an illicit drug during the past year. As many as 18% of 21 year- olds report drugged driving at least once during the past year.

To help combat this growing problem of drugs in the educational environment, at least three states, Arizona, Kansas and New York, each independently developed training to address this issue. In cooperation with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA), the strengths from the three programs were combined to form the Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals (DITEP). This training is intended to provide school administrators and nurses with a systematic approach to recognizing and evaluating individuals in the academic environment who are abusing and impaired by drugs, both legal and illegal, in order to provide early recognition and intervention.

DITEP is derived from the national Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program, a successful law enforcement procedure used to detect drug and alcohol impaired drivers. The methods employed in this training are based on medical and scientific facts. The information is supported by research conducted in both laboratory and field studies. The DEC Program was validated in laboratory by studies conducted at the Johns Hopkins University, and in the field by the Southern California Research Institute. Although DITEP is not intended to qualify participants as Drug Recognition Experts (DREs), it is intended to make participants competent and confident in evaluating and documenting those individuals suspected of abusing drugs in the school setting.

The training will enable school nurses to determine first of all, whether or not the student is impaired. If it is determined that there is impairment, whether the impairment is due to a medical problem or is drug related. And finally, if the impairment is drug related, through proven diagnostic procedures, what category or categories of drugs that are likely causing the observed impairment.

By providing training to school officials and health care professionals, it is anticipated that drug usage in schools employing an aggressive evaluation and detection program will decline. Consequently, not only will the disruption caused by individuals abusing drugs be decreased, but also the incidence of those individuals driving to and from schools while impaired by either alcohol or drugs will also be greatly reduced, making our communities and schools a safer place for all.

For general questions about the program or to schedule a class, please contact:

**Sgt. James Roy**

**Colchester Police Department**

**[james.roy@colchesterpvt.org](mailto:james.roy@colchesterpvt.org) or by phone at 802-264-5555**