



The Benefits of an Active SADD Chapter in Your School

1. Promotes Student Leadership and Empowerment

SADD (*Students Against Destructive Decisions*) offers students meaningful opportunities to take ownership of prevention initiatives within their school and community. Through peer-led projects, advocacy efforts, and leadership training, students develop critical life skills including communication, decision-making, and collaboration. Active chapters cultivate confident and responsible leaders who inspire positive change among their peers.

2. Supports a Safe and Healthy School Environment

SADD chapters help foster a safer and more supportive school culture. By addressing issues such as substance misuse, mental health, bullying, and impaired and distracted driving, SADD students become catalysts for healthier behaviors. Their peer-to-peer influence is one of the most effective tools in reducing risk behaviors among youth.

Research from the CDC and SAMHSA shows that youth prevention and education programs can reduce substance misuse rates and related incidents when implemented consistently. SADD helps schools integrate these efforts at the student level.

3. Enhances the School's Prevention and Wellness Framework

SADD chapters can help schools fulfill requirements for prevention programming and student engagement metrics while complementing existing wellness teams and advisory programs.

An active SADD chapter strengthens a school's alignment with key state and federal prevention frameworks, such as:

- **SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)** emphasizing data-driven, evidence-based strategies.
- **Indiana Department of Education priorities** related to student engagement, safety, and wellness.

4. Provides Access to Free Resources and Statewide Support

Through Indiana SADD, chapters gain access to:

- Free prevention resources and campaign materials
- Statewide youth leadership opportunities
- Advisor training and technical assistance
- Networking with other schools and community prevention partners

These supports reduce staff workloads while maintaining prevention efforts that are relevant, research-based, and student-driven.



5. Improves School Climate and Student Connectedness

Schools with active SADD chapters often report increased student engagement and improved school climate. Students involved in SADD are more likely to feel connected to their school, a key protective factor associated with lower rates of risky behaviors and better academic performance.

When students lead prevention initiatives, they model empathy, inclusion, and care for others—values that ripple across the school community.

6. Strengthens Community Partnerships

SADD chapters often collaborate with local law enforcement, health departments, and prevention coalitions. These partnerships extend the school's influence beyond its walls, promoting community-wide prevention strategies and enhancing the school's reputation as a proactive, health-focused institution.

7. Demonstrates a Commitment to Student Wellbeing

An active SADD chapter sends a clear message: your school values student wellbeing and leadership. It reflects a forward-thinking approach to education that prioritizes prevention, safety, and youth empowerment—core elements of a thriving learning environment.

8. Connects Students to the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)

SADD is an official certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award program, which honors volunteers for their sustained commitment to service. Students who contribute qualifying volunteer hours through their SADD chapter—whether through prevention campaigns, community outreach, or other service—can earn national recognition from the White House.

This distinction enhances students' college, scholarship, and career applications while reinforcing the importance of civic responsibility and community engagement. Schools with active SADD chapters gain the added prestige of being connected to a national service award program that values youth leadership and public service.

Get Started

Schools may register or renew their SADD chapter at www.IndianaTeenInstitute.org/Indiana-SADD. Indiana SADD provides support, training, and resources to help schools establish and sustain strong youth engagement throughout the year.

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