INDIANA SADD · FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

# BENEFITS OF AN ACTIVE SADD CHAPTER

Eight ways student-led prevention strengthens your school

SADD (*Students Against Destructive Decisions*) gives students meaningful ways to lead prevention in their school and community. Here's what an active chapter brings to your school.

## 1 PROMOTES STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Through peer-led projects, advocacy and leadership training, students take ownership of prevention and build life skills like communication, decision-making and collaboration. Active chapters grow confident, responsible leaders who inspire positive change among their peers.

## 2 SUPPORTS A SAFE, HEALTHY SCHOOL

Chapters address substance misuse, mental health, bullying, and impaired and distracted driving, helping build a safer, more supportive culture. Peer-to-peer influence is a powerful tool for reducing risk behaviors.

Research from the CDC and SAMHSA shows that youth prevention programs can reduce substance misuse when implemented consistently. SADD helps schools put these efforts to work at the student level.

## 3 STRENGTHENS YOUR PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

SADD helps meet prevention programming and student engagement goals while complementing wellness teams and advisory programs. It aligns your school with:

- **SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)**, which emphasizes data-driven, evidence-based strategies
- **Indiana Department of Education priorities** for student engagement, safety and wellness

## 4 FREE RESOURCES AND STATEWIDE SUPPORT

Through Indiana SADD, chapters get:

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

These supports lighten staff workloads while keeping prevention relevant, research-based and student-driven.

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# IMPACT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

How an active chapter strengthens school climate, community ties and student service

## 5 IMPROVES CLIMATE AND CONNECTEDNESS

Schools with active chapters often report stronger student engagement and school climate. Students involved in SADD are more likely to feel connected to school, a key protective factor linked to fewer risky behaviors and better academic performance.

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

## 6 STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Chapters often team up with local law enforcement, health departments and prevention coalitions. These partnerships extend your school's influence beyond its walls, support community-wide prevention and build your reputation as a proactive, health-focused school.

## 7 SHOWS A COMMITMENT TO WELLBEING

An active chapter sends a clear message: your school values student wellbeing and leadership. It reflects a forward-thinking approach that puts prevention, safety and youth empowerment at the heart of a thriving learning environment.

## 8 RECOGNIZES STUDENT SERVICE

SADD is a certifying organization for the **President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)**, which honors sustained volunteer service. AmeriCorps paused the PVSA in May 2025 and hasn't announced when it will resume.

Chapters can keep logging members' verified volunteer hours so students are ready if it returns. A documented service record strengthens college, scholarship and job applications either way.

## GET STARTED

Register or renew your SADD chapter at **indianasadd.org**. Indiana SADD provides support, training and resources to help schools build and sustain strong youth engagement all year.

CONTACT

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