

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- **Ohio State Highway Patrol**



August 1, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In the upcoming school year, your child may receive information about a statewide anti-drug campaign called *Start Talking!* This is an effort championed by Governor John Kasich and First Lady Karen Kasich aimed at preventing drug abuse among Ohio's most vulnerable citizens – our children. Research shows when parents and other adults talk about substance abuse with children, they are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs.

One component of *Start Talking!* is *5 Minutes for Life*; an educational campaign to reduce and ultimately eliminate the demand for illegal drug use among students. The campaign, which began in the fall of 2013, is a partnership including the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Local Law Enforcement and the Ohio National Guard. The program centers on uniformed personnel talking with student leadership groups about responsible decision-making, leadership and encouraging those in their peer group to live a drug-free lifestyle.

Following the presentations by the troopers, local law enforcement and guard members, student leaders are encouraged to spread the message within their schools by creatively using the *5 Minutes for Life* key points. Students will be encouraged to use social media to promote these key concepts and share related messages to the campaigns Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. *5 Minutes for Life* represents a tangible way in which Ohio students can contribute to a safer Ohio.

Whether its student government, cross country, football, softball or band members, *5 Minutes for Life* is intended to remind and encourage students to lead by example and encourage peers to live a responsible, drug-free lifestyle.

Additional information on *5 Minutes for Life* can be found on Instagram, [instagram.com/starttalkingohio](https://www.instagram.com/starttalkingohio), Twitter, twitter.com/5minutesforlife, Facebook, [facebook.com/fiveminutesforlife](https://www.facebook.com/fiveminutesforlife), or by visiting StartTalking.ohio.gov.

Thank you for your commitment to helping your child live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. We wish you a great school year.

Regards,

Colonel Paul A. Pride, Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol
Chief Brandon K. Standley, OACP President, Bellefontaine Police Department
Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn, President Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, Wood County Sheriff
Major General Mark E. Bartman, The Adjutant General, Ohio National Guard

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

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