

# Negative Risk Factors & Our Youth: Why Parent Networks are Important for the Future of Our Children

## Wisconsin's Future is at Risk

- 1 in 4 teens are bullied at school on a regular basis.
- Bully victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims.
- Alcohol consumption in Wisconsin is almost 30% higher than the national average.
- As the #1 state for binge drinking, 25.6% of alcohol consumed in Wisconsin is done in binges.
- Wisconsinites are likely to binge drink 4.8 times a month, averaging 9 drinks per binge.
- 30.7% of Barron County youth had an alcoholic beverage on at least 1 day during the last 30 days.
- Approximately 10.8% of adolescence in Wisconsin used an illicit drug in the past 30 days.
- 1 in 5 Wisconsin teens have abused prescription drugs.

## What is the Northwestern Wisconsin Parent Network?

The Northwestern Wisconsin Parent Network (NWPN) is a network of parents and community members from Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn counties that want to provide youth with a safe and friendly environment. NWPN is committed to raising children in communities that are free from bullying, drugs and alcohol and other risk factors that negatively impact the healthy development of youth. Members who join NWPN believe in the power of modeling positive behaviors for young people and in providing a safe environment.

## Why Join the Northwestern Wisconsin Parent Network?

- Access to the Northwestern Wisconsin Parent Network directory.
- Opportunity to network with other parents.
- Training to keep children healthy and safe.
- Information and trends and issues facing youth.
- Access to community resources and other information.

***The Barron Area School District fully endorses the Northwestern Wisconsin Parent Network initiative, with the goal of having at least 10% of our parent population join.***

***If you have any additional questions about the parent network please contact Ashley Mertins at (715) 537-5627 ext. 146 or via e-mail at [mertinsa@barron.k12.wi.us](mailto:mertinsa@barron.k12.wi.us).***

