

OBION COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

*316 South Third Street  
Union City, Tennessee 38261  
(731)885-9743 FAX (731)885-4902*

---

David W. Huss, Director of Schools

Members of the Board of Education:  
ROGER WILLIAMS, Chairman  
JIMMY C. SMITH, Vice-Chairman  
GREG FERGUSON, Chair Pro Tem

ALLEN C. EDMAISTON  
GLYNN GIFFIN  
DIANE SANDERSON  
RODNEY TAYLOR

Parents,

The safety and welfare of our students is of paramount importance to the Obion County School System. Therefore we want to make you aware of a growing problem among the youth of our nation. While the use of illegal drugs such as marijuana, ecstasy, crack, and meth continues to decrease, the abuse of prescription medications by teenagers is on the rise.

During the last several months, various media sources have published articles pointing out the dangers of this growing trend. We encourage you to research this problem via newspapers, magazines, and the internet. Below are some websites that contain pertinent information about prescription drug abuse among young people.

1. [http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/Resources/Prescription\\_Medicine\\_Misuse](http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/Resources/Prescription_Medicine_Misuse)
2. [http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/Resources/Preventing\\_Teen\\_Abuse\\_of\\_Prescription\\_and\\_Over-the](http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/Resources/Preventing_Teen_Abuse_of_Prescription_and_Over-the)
3. <http://alcoholism.about.com/b/2006/12/27/teen-prescription-drug-abuse-increasing.htm>

Unfortunately, we in Obion County are not immune to this problem. We are already beginning to see incidents of teenagers experimenting with prescription drugs. It is our hope that you will work with us to prevent this from becoming a prevalent problem in our schools and community. You can help by taking the following steps:

1. Store your medicines where they are unavailable to your children.
2. Talk to your children about the dangers of misusing prescription medications.
3. Make sure you and your children understand the Obion County Schools Drug Policy.

Students should not possess either prescription medicine or over-the-counter medication at school. Any medicine that must be taken during school hours should be brought by the parent to the office and left with the nurse. Unlawful possession of prescription medication at school constitutes a “zero tolerance” offense punishable by a calendar year expulsion from school as mandated by state law.

If you have any questions, please contact the principal at your school. Hopefully, if we educate our children and take the necessary precautions, we can avert any potential problems and ensure the safety and welfare of all of our students.