Need Help Planning Your School's Dry Grad?

Provincial resource "Life Starts Now!" can help!

For Grade 12 students across the province, high school graduation parties are an important rite of passage before entering adulthood. It is now a popular trend for schools and parents to organize a dry grad party as a way for graduating students to celebrate the end of their high school years in a fun and safe way. Life Starts Now! describes dry grad planning from start to finish, incorporating ideas and suggestions for success from previous dry grad organizers, and information on specific BC legislation relevant to dry grad planning.

The aim of a dry grad party is to reduce the risk of alcohol-related harm to the graduates, as well as the community at large, on a night when that risk is unusually high. A dry grad is an all-night supervised party for graduating students and their guests, with absolutely no alcohol or drugs allowed. A dry grad party immediately follows the formal convocation, banquet, and/or dance, and typically ends at 5:00 or 6:00 a.m.

A dry grad requires parents, sponsors, and communities to work together to commemorate the success of the graduating students and to send them on their way in a safe and celebratory style. By helping to plan and stage an unforgettable dry grad, parents and teachers give grads the opportunity to reap the rewards of responsible behaviour, and to recognize that alcohol is not essential for fun. The Life Starts Now! guide was written to support parents, teachers and grads in their efforts to plan a celebration for a very special, one-of-a-kind moment, a moment where each grad can truly reflect that “Life Starts Now!”

For ideas and support planning your school’s dry grad party, please visit the Healthy Schools BC website here.