

# INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING: DBE WEBINAR

UNIVERSAL PREVENTION CURRICULUM –SCHOOL BASED PREVENTION

THE SCIENCE BEHIND SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION

Vathiswa Dlangamandla  
National Department of Social Development  
[vathiswad@dsd.gov.za](mailto:vathiswad@dsd.gov.za)

Date: 24 June 2025

Building a Caring Society Together.

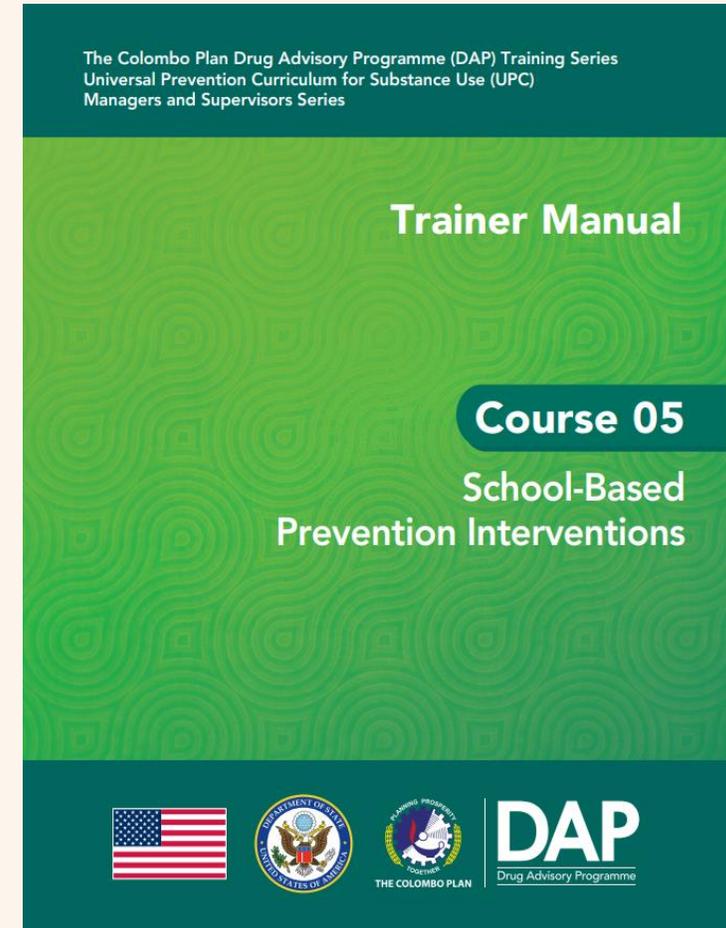
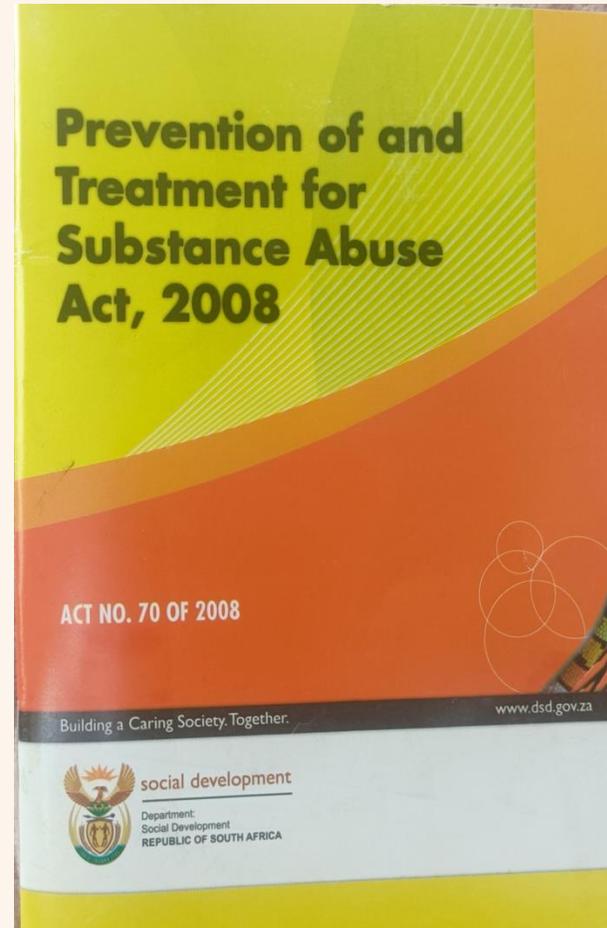
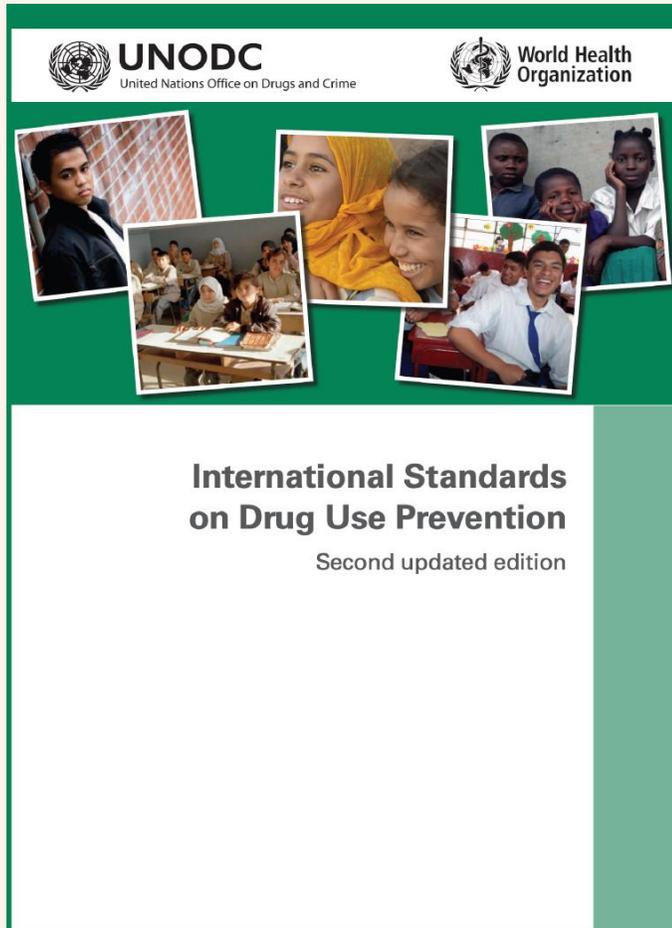
[www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za)



# TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Prevention as a science: effective drug use prevention strategies and interventions
2. Universal Prevention Programme: Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme
3. Why schools are important for substance use prevention
4. Integrating UPC in Your School Setting

# PREVENTION STRATEGIES, ACT AND INTERVENTIONS



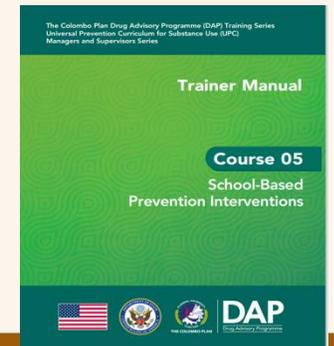
Building a Caring Society Together.

[www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za)



# UNIVERSAL PREVENTION CURRICULUM IN A SCHOOL SETTING

- The UPC is a structured training program, developed by Applied Prevention Science International in collaboration with global prevention experts, to build competencies in substance-use prevention.
- Cover the science of prevention, evidence-based intervention design, developmental considerations, implementation ethics, and monitoring and evaluation.
- The UPC offers well-tested approaches to school-based prevention.



[www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za)

Building a Caring Society Together.



# UNIVERSAL PREVENTION CURRICULUM IN A SCHOOL SETTING

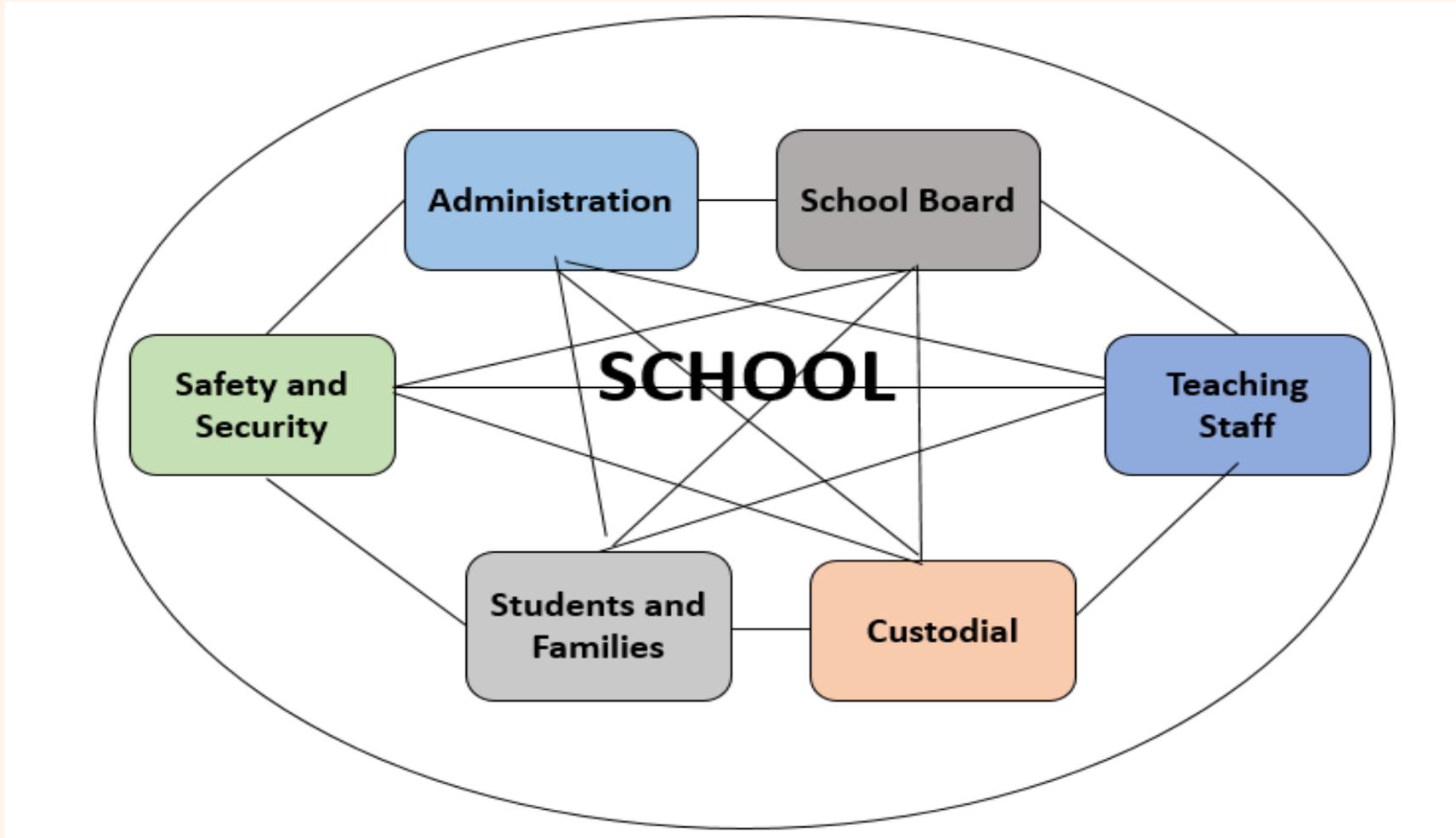
- UPC School based prevention track introduces the science behind school-based prevention interventions and policies, and the methods used to improve school climate, strengthen policies, and intervene directly with classroom prevention interventions.
- It provides evidence based intervention
- It guides the school administrators on effective planning and strategies for addressing school policy and school climate
- Builds a knowledge and skill base for school staff to implement and sustain substance use prevention programming in schools

Building a Caring Society Together.

[www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za)



# WHY SCHOOLS ARE IMPORTANT FOR SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION



Building a Caring Society Together.

[www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za)

# WHY SCHOOLS ARE IMPORTANT FOR SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

- Schools are society's most important institutions outside the family.

## Schools –

- Shape attitudes towards responsible behavior in general, and towards substance use in particular
- Teach appropriate prosocial roles and behaviors and reinforce the positive behaviors that children learn at home and in the community
- Provide children and youth an opportunity to practice these roles and behaviors under adult supervision

- What Roles Can Schools Play in the Prevention of Substance Use?

Schools have a major role to play

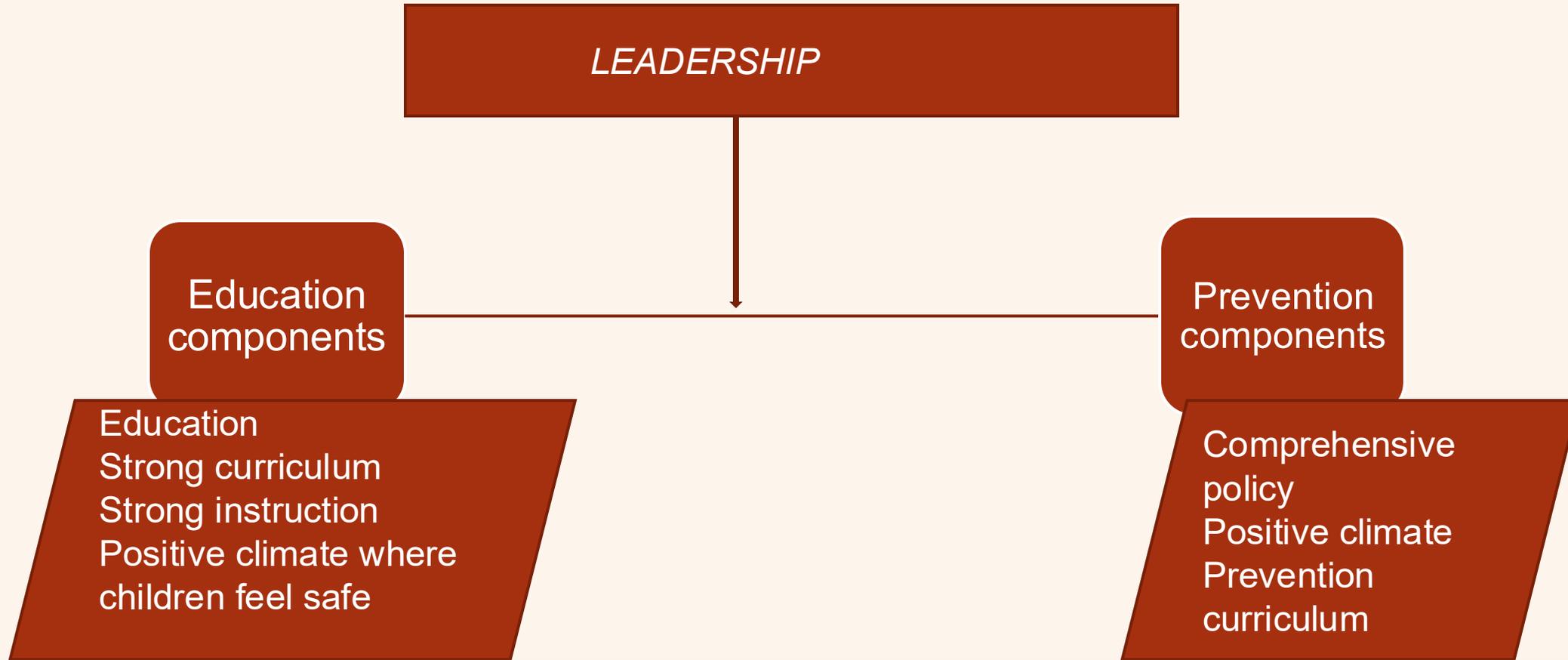
- Demand reduction
- Supply reduction
- Reducing the negative consequences of substance use

Of the three, schools' greatest responsibility is demand reduction

# LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

- Universal – Everyone in the school.
- Selective – Certain identified students/groups who have some risk factors.
- Indicated – Students who have shown some problem behaviors.

# PREVENTION LINKS TO EDUCATION PROCESSES



Building a Caring Society Together.

[www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za)

# INTEGRATING UPC IN YOUR SCHOOL SETTING

## BUILDING TEAMS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL- BASED PREVENTION

- Prevention Leadership Action Team (PLAT)
- Responsible for implementing Evidence-based Prevention Interventions (EBIs) in the school.
- The PLAT is the infrastructure that will support the selection, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive substance use prevention initiatives.

# FINDING EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS

- Registries are the best source for evidence based prevention interventions
- Providers often use registries to select the best most evidence based prevention programs for the targeted population

## The best registries

- Identify strategies with stronger evidence
- Specify populations for which they have been evaluated
- Permit a search on characteristics

## Popular registries

- Blueprints for healthy youth development
- National registries of evidence based programs and practices

## CONCLUSIONS

The Universal Prevention Curriculum – School Based Prevention and UNODC International Standards provide substance use prevention education and strategies that are evidence based.

South Africa school policies to integrate the curriculum in the existing school protocols

The Government of South Africa (DSD & DBE) collaboration is important to role out the curriculum and the standards.

# THANK YOU

Building a Caring Society Together.

[www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za)

