

Top 10 Tips for Approaching and Working with Schools...

1

The best times to approach schools would be the months of October, late January, February and early May.

2

If possible, approach a school with an internal partner, for example a teacher or parent you already have a relationship with. This will legitimize you even more!

3

Working with schools should be a partnership. Explain what you can offer and why you benefit from working with schools.

4

Ask yourself- "Why Should They Care?" When you share your thirty-second spiel over the phone or with a person in the hallway, you need to be to the point. Why are your prevention services important?

5

Use local (school or county) data if possible to talk about prevention in their school.

6

Know the education language. The word "standards" to someone in public health means something very different to a teacher.

7

Align what you are offering to curriculum standards, school policies, raising test scores, increasing attendance, etc.

8

Understand that many teachers and other school staff are overwhelmed. Don't add something to their plate. Consider having them do what they do, but in a different way.

9

Schools are stressed. There is overall a lack of funding, support, resources and pressure to raise test scores. If you can offer a solution (for example, be a resource) you're in!

10

Ask questions. If you don't understand something, explain that you come from a different perspective and schools are a different beast!