



## FORT BRAGG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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312 South Lincoln Street, Fort Bragg, California 95437-4416

Telephone (707) 961-2850 Fax (707) 964-5002

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City of Fort Bragg  
416 N. Franklin Street  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

The Board of Trustees of Fort Bragg Unified Schools supports the passage of a Social Host Ordinance for our city.

Why do we need a Social Host Ordinance? What's the problem?

Local, state and national research indicates that youth use alcohol more than all other illegal drugs combined, making underage drinking a priority issue for communities to address.

Underage drinking does not occur in a vacuum and cannot be successfully addressed by focusing on youth alone. Youth obtain alcohol – either directly or indirectly – from adults. Therefore, efforts to reduce underage drinking need to focus on adults and engage the society at large.

Preventing underage drinking requires changing the context in which alcohol abuse occurs. Effectively addressing these conditions requires managing high *risk settings* where youth access and consume alcohol. Managing high risk settings requires implementing local policies that specifically address these settings.

High school and middle school youth primarily access alcohol from social sources (friends, older siblings, parents, other family members, parties and sometimes strangers).

Teen parties are one of the highest risk settings for underage drinking and have been identified as a primary source where youth obtain alcohol. Young people report their heaviest (binge) drinking at youth parties as well as significant negative and harmful consequences.

It is wrong to assume that “all kids are going to drink anyway.” Teens face a great deal of peer pressure to drink, however, many teens choose not to drink and are often looking for a “way out.” Adults need to support teens in making healthy decisions – not encourage unhealthy decisions.

Underage drinking is not inevitable and we are not powerless to prevent it.

THEREFORE, we the members of the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent of Schools in Fort Bragg support the passage of a Social Host Ordinance.

Thank you,

Charles D. Bush  
Superintendent/Clerk Board of Trustees