



Sample Cover Letter for Handbook

Dear **(School Name)** Family Member,

I would like to welcome you and your student to **(School Name)**! I also want to address an issue that affects just about every college campuses in the United States, which is the use and abuse of alcohol by students. Alcohol misuse by college students results in thousands of students annually experiencing consequences such as failing classes, blackouts, fights, injuries, alcohol poisoning, physical and sexual assaults, legal problems, alcohol-related driving accidents, hospitalization, and sometimes even death.

Here at **(School Name)** we take a proactive approach by providing all parents of incoming students materials to help them talk with their student about alcohol use while in college.

There are several important things to consider when approaching this topic:

- **The transition from high school to college provides parents with an optimal time period to talk their students.**
- **Research suggests that the impact of such a discussion just prior to starting college leads to lower alcohol consumption during freshman year.**
- **Further, talking with your son or daughter also lowers the risk that he or she will experience serious alcohol-related consequences.**
- **We encourage you to stand apart from most parents, take an active role, and communicate with your son or daughter.**

The handbook we are providing you has been tested in research at colleges and universities throughout the United States and supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. It includes information specific to alcohol and its effects, as well as information about having a conversation with your son or daughter about a difficult topic. How you choose to go about having this discussion is up to you. However, we are providing you with a variety of strategies and information which you can adapt to fit your own personal style and relationship with your student.

Be unique, talk with your student, and lower the risk!

Sincerely,