

# Talking about Gambling with **STUDENTS**

Learning to set limits is an important part of growing up. However, for some younger folks, an attraction to gambling can easily spiral out of control.

They may start to gamble more often than they planned and lose more money than they can afford, yet find it very hard to stop. These are all warning signs of a gambling problem.

Young people are considered a high-risk group for problem gambling. Most adults who develop a serious problem usually started gambling before the age of eighteen. That is why prevention is key.

The topic of gambling deserves the same frank, direct approach used when talking to youth about safe driving and other risky behaviors. Their future may depend on it.



**Council on  
Compulsive Gambling  
of Pennsylvania**

Help is available.  
**1-800-GAMBLER®**  
[www.pacouncil.com](http://www.pacouncil.com)

## Problem Gambling & Students

Students can be negatively affected by gambling related issues in several ways. Early exposure to gambling behaviors by friends and family members can increase the risk of developing a future problem. Recent studies indicate that young people whose parents gamble on a regular basis develop problems at nearly twice the rate of those whose parents do not gamble.

### Some signs of an issue may include:

- Frequent participation in gambling activities
- Increased absences/tardiness from school
- Borrowing/stealing of money
- Decline in school performance
- Lack of interest in non-gambling activities

### What Help Is Available?

There are others who have had this problem and there are people who you can talk to.

If you think you, or someone you know, may have an issue related to gambling, please consider contacting the 24/7 toll-free Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER® today.

**Help is just a phone call away.  
Contact 1-800-GAMBLER® today**

Recognizing early signs of youth gambling problems can make a significant difference in their life. For more information about warning signs, ways to talk with students about gambling, and additional resources for help, please visit [www.pacouncil.com](http://www.pacouncil.com)



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