



## Idaho Teens Help With Anti-Meth Campaign

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A state-wide effort targeting teens in the fight against meth launched Monday at Meridian Technical Charter High School. The Paint the State campaign is using the "Meth: Not even once" slogan. Lawmakers, students, and anti-drug advocates are teaming up to find creative ways to battle drug abuse through art.

MTCHS juniors Jake Fullilove and Jonathan Vaughan are two of many Idahoans using public service announcements to show the horrific impact meth has on users their own age. School administrators say they know of teens as young as 13 experimenting with meth.

Fullilove and Vaughan say they hope the video's dark images and haunting sounds in the background scare the audience away from using meth, "not even once."

"We want them to realize what meth does to your life (the clip shows a boy screaming underwater), maybe not literally but this is how you might feel when you use meth," said Jonathan Vaughan.

In the 30 second video, a teenage boy experiences the euphoric high of being on the illicit drug and then feels the experience go downhill fast. He screams, "I didn't want this!"

The campaign is also a contest for teens 13-18 across the Gem State. Students must use the slogan, tagline or another anti-meth theme and create a work of art in any style or theme that is clearly visible to the general public. \$3,000 will be awarded in each Idaho county with an additional \$5,000 grand prize for the best entry in the state. The deadline to register for the contest is June 18th and submissions are due by July 11th.