

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Title</i> ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE BY STUDENTS (PREVENTION AND PROHIBITION OF)	<i>Code</i> JICH
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HOLLISTON

All students have a right to receive an appropriate education in an environment free of alcohol and drugs. In accordance with state and federal law, the Holliston Public Schools (HPS) shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally-appropriate and evidence-based alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention education programs in grades K-12. The alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention program shall address the legal, social and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco and drug use, with emphasis on non-use by school-aged children. The program shall also include information about effective techniques and skill development for delaying and abstaining from using, as well as skills for addressing peer pressure to use alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

The Committee believes that prevention requires education that supports healthy decision-making and meets the following objectives:

- To prevent, delay, and/or reduce alcohol, tobacco and drug use among children and youth;
- To increase students’ understanding of the legal, social and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco and drug use; and
- To teach students self-management skills, social skills, negotiation skills and refusal skills that will help them make healthy decisions and avoid alcohol, tobacco and drug use.

In addition, the Holliston School Committee encourages a spirit of cooperation and sharing of appropriate information about suspected use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs among the Holliston Public Schools, the Holliston Police Department, and parents/guardians in an attempt to eliminate alcohol, tobacco and drug use by students.

Students shall not possess, use, sell, give or otherwise transmit alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia or be under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drug or regulated substance, as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 94C on any school property or at any school-sponsored activity or event away from or within the school. This includes the use of any illegal drug or regulated substance prior to attendance at, or participation in, a school-sponsored activity.

It is a violation of this policy if on any school property or at any school-sponsored event away from or within the school:

- A student is knowingly in attendance at a gathering where minors are consuming alcohol illegally or anyone is using illegal drugs, whether or not the student was engaged in the activity
- A student purposely tries to avoid detection with the intent of violating this policy
- A student intentionally aids and abets another student to violate this policy

Students who violate this policy will be disciplined in accordance with school regulations and regulations published in the student handbook, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion from school and/or exclusion from extracurricular activities; events; or school organizations, such as athletic teams..

The building principal will have discretion in determining the appropriate disciplinary measures, including whether or not a student shall be suspended, from what activities, and for what period of time. The School Committee will make a final determination if expulsion for alcohol-related violations is recommended by the building principal.

All school staff members must report to the building principal each and every known incident, suspected incident, or suspected pattern of use; possession or trafficking in alcohol or drugs or drug paraphernalia; or any instance when a student is believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

This policy shall be posted on the district's website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents/guardians in accordance with state law. Additionally, the district shall file a copy of this policy with the DESE, in accordance with the law, in a manner requested by the DESE.

First Reading:	February 3, 2000
Second Reading:	February 17, 2000
Third Reading:	March 2, 2000; March 30, 2000
Policy Adopted:	March 30, 2000
Policy Amended:	October 13, 2011, November 1, 2013, August 25, 2016
Legal References:	M.G.L. Chapter 94C; 272:40A; Chapter 71:1; Chapter 71:96
Policy Cross Reference:	JIC (Expected Conduct)
Procedure Reference:	

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