

DRUG, TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM

Background

The use and abuse of drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes, and alcohol by youth poses one of the most serious problems facing educators, parents, and our community. The Mt. Lebanon School District shares with the community the responsibility to provide an optimal school environment for the intellectual, emotional and physical development of its students and recognizes that alcohol, drugs, e-cigarettes, and tobacco possession, use, and/or abuse has serious, detrimental effects on the academic environment. In addition to providing a comprehensive drug, e-cigarettes, tobacco, and alcohol curriculum, the District prescribes various educational and counseling programs and disciplinary actions for those students who experience problems relating to drugs, e-cigarettes, tobacco, and alcohol.

The Board believes that although final authority must rest with parents or guardians of students, school personnel at all levels—with the best interest of the students in mind—should make every effort through education, counseling, and/or referral to prevent or abate the possession, use, and abuse of drugs, e-cigarettes, tobacco and alcohol.

Objective

It is the objective of this policy to positively influence students' behavior through an effective educational program about drug, e-cigarettes, tobacco, and alcohol possession, use, and/or abuse, a program of intervention, a support program for students returning from treatment for dependency, and cooperation with community organizations and agencies in this area.

It is the further objective of this policy that the District's drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse programs and curriculum for students are in accord with the Federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (20 U.S.C. §7101 et seq.) and Pennsylvania Act 55 of 2017 (24 P.S. §15-1547).

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the term "drug" means all substances identified as illegal or controlled substances under applicable law, as well as substances that may be obtained or used legally but are used improperly, including but not limited to over the counter drugs, inhalants, or other substances that pose risks for those who ingest them. This policy does not apply to the proper and legal use of medications.

For the purposes of this policy, the term “e-cigarette” means a battery-operated device that is typically used to inhale a usually nicotine-containing vapor. For the purposes of this policy, an e-cigarette shall include “vape” pens.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of School Directors that:

1. Instruction of a drug, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and tobacco education program will be age-appropriate, sequential in method of study, discourage the use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs and communicate that the use of illicit drugs and the improper use of legally obtained drugs is harmful and illegal.
2. This comprehensive, coordinated, and preventative drug, tobacco, e-cigarettes, and alcohol education program will be provided to all students of the District at the appropriate grade level, beginning in elementary grades and adapted to the age, development and needs of students.
3. The District will ensure that the aforementioned drug, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and tobacco education program will include instruction related to opioid abuse, with a specific emphasis on the prescription drug epidemic and the connection between prescription opioid abuse and addiction to other drugs, including heroin, for students in grades six (6) through twelve (12).
4. The drug, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and tobacco education program will be integrated with health classes, and health teachers will receive in-service training in curriculum relating to alcohol, vape/e-cigarettes, drugs, tobacco, and dangerous controlled substances.
5. Every three (3) years, part of health teacher’s in-service training curriculum will specifically pertain to opioid abuse, the opioid epidemic, and opioids’ connection to other drugs.
6. Educators who complete in-service training related to drug, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and tobacco education may apply such in-service training toward their continuing professional education requirements under 24 P.S. § 12–1205.2.
7. The District encourages the continuing education of tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol and drug prevention in other areas of study, including extracurricular activities and athletics.
8. A program of early intervention by identification and referral for treatment will be provided for students.

9. A support program will be provided to assist returning dependent students in making maximum use of the educational setting.
10. The District shall support appropriate community efforts directed toward solving problems connected with student use and abuse of drugs, e-cigarettes, tobacco, and alcohol.
11. Administrative and counseling personnel shall work cooperatively with law enforcement and other governmental agencies in situations involving drug, e-cigarettes, tobacco, or alcohol abuse.
12. The administration shall monitor all curricula which are provided to students in the District regarding the use and abuse of drugs, e-cigarettes, tobacco, and alcohol and shall regularly review, design, develop and implement such additional programs in this area as are deemed appropriate to the objective of an academic environment free from all forms of tobacco, drug and alcohol use/abuse.

Administrative Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Administration to implement and enforce this policy, and to develop Administrative Procedures for implementation and enforcement where necessary.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. All District Staff
2. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted November 19, 1990
Revised November 18, 1991
Revised August 21, 2006
Revised April 19, 2022