SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

Actions taken by staff in dealing with student use and abuse of alcohol and controlled illegal, addictive, or harmful substances, including marijuana (cannabis) and anabolic steroids, will have as their first concern the welfare of the student involved and the other students in the school. Although a helping relationship rather than an investigative and punitive approach will be emphasized, necessary and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken when laws or school regulations are violated. Law enforcement agencies will be called upon for investigative and consultative assistance where illegal drug or alcohol activity has occurred.

Prevention

The prevention program will focus on classroom instruction, guidance services, and creating a positive school climate.

A. **Instruction**
This dimension of the prevention program will focus on:

1. The effects of addictive substances such as alcohol, drugs, and nicotine upon the body; and

2. Skill development related to self-esteem, goal-setting, decision-making, conflict management, problem-solving, refusal, and communication.

B. **Guidance Services**
Staff will meet with students, individually and in small groups, to supplement addictive substance prevention, instruction, and skill development. Staff will also assist parents in maximizing the prevention efforts of the school.

C. **School Climate**
A facilitative school environment can help students to achieve academically, socially, and emotionally. The school will strive to be a place where:

1. Students, staff, and parents respect themselves and others;

2. Individuals can be trusted to do what they say they will do;

3. High morale is evident;

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4. Each person feels that they have a voice in the decisions that affect them;

5. All feel that they are continuing to learn and grow;

6. All value diversity and accept it as an opportunity for growth and development;

7. All possess a "sense of belonging;" and

8. All feel that they can make a difference to someone else.

To this end, the school will encourage the formation of Tiered Teams, and any education and/or prevention promotions that increase awareness of the effects of substance abuse. Student support groups will assist students concerned about their own substance abuse, students living in families suffering from substance abuse, and students concerned about the substance abuse of someone else.

Intervention

The goal of the intervention program will be to eliminate the use of alcohol and the use and abuse of controlled, illegal, addictive, or harmful substances, including anabolic steroids abuse, by students.

Ongoing in-service will be provided for faculty and staff. Important aspects of in-service training will include dimensions of the family illness and dynamics of the addiction process; enabling behaviors; intervention techniques; children in chemically dependent families; student experimentation, abuse and dependency; parental involvement and community resources; prevention issues and strategies; treatment and aftercare support; and implementation of the program into the classroom/building.

Staff roles for the intervention program are as follows:

A. Administrators, counselors, selected staff, and nurses will meet regularly for the purpose of identifying any student(s) who may be in need of assistance. Such staff will be sensitive to identifying symptoms of substance abuse.

Suspected student(s) will be referred to the designated Tiered Team, consisting of staff members who have exhibited a strong interest in attending to the needs of such students and have received specialized training in substance abuse dependency.

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B. The designated Tiered Team will meet regularly to review referrals; confer with students and, if warranted, counselors, administrators and/or parents; collect data; make recommendations for services; and maintain a confidential system of record keeping. Parents will be involved before any action is taken,

C. Students returning to school from a community inpatient or outpatient treatment program will be given aftercare support by the designated Tiered Team. Supportive adults will encourage student participation in positive school activities to develop strong bonds with other students and the school community. Primary aftercare responsibility for students returning from a community treatment program rests with the student, parent, and community treatment program personnel. School staff, the student, parent(s), and community treatment personnel will work cooperatively to facilitate the aftercare plan.

Corrective Action

If a student appears at school or a school-sponsored function demonstrating behavior that indicates that they may be under the influence of an addictive substance and/or admits to an administrator that they are under the influence of an addictive substance, the school will take the following action:

A. The parents will be notified to arrange for appropriate treatment.

B. If the student's illegal use of addictive substances is confirmed, the school administration may request the assistance of a law enforcement official in investigating the source of the addictive substance.

C. Appropriate school disciplinary action will be taken.

If school authorities find a student possessing addictive substances at school, the addictive substances will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement officials for investigation and disposal. Appropriate school disciplinary action will be taken by a school administrator regardless of law enforcement action.

If a school administrator receives information concerning the sales and use of addictive substances outside of school, the information may be reported to law enforcement officials for their investigation.

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