TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, VAPING AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

The Board of Education views with grave concern the serious implications of alcohol, drug, tobacco, and vaping products used by people, specifically young people, all over the United States and especially in school districts. In keeping with its primary responsibility --the education of youth-- the Board charges the professional staff of the district to continue to investigate the causes of student involvement with drugs, tobacco, alcohol and vaping products and to develop suitable preventive measures however and whenever feasible.

The Board and the professional staff shall continue to seek ways to educate students and school staff of the district about the dangers of the illegal use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and vaping. Instructional units will include sessions about the causes and effects of drug, alcohol, tobacco and vaping abuse, especially in young people.

The following objectives must be realized if the goal of minimizing drug, tobacco, vaping and alcohol abuse is to be achieved:

1. students shall be encouraged to identify the problem and its causes and to organize to solve it;
2. they should understand the nature of legal and illegal drugs, tobacco and vaping products;
3. they shall be encouraged to develop a set of values and behavioral insights which shall give them a deeper understanding of themselves and society;
4. they shall be encouraged to identify the variety of alternate forms of behavior, other than drug or alcohol abuse, tobacco use and vaping, which are available to satisfy their needs; and
5. they shall be encouraged to make constructive decisions concerning the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping.

While the Board in no way condones the abuse of illegal or harmful substances, it is in the interest of student and staff health that a climate be created in the schools so that individuals with problems may seek to receive help without fear of reprisal.

Cross-ref: 5440, Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Ref: Education Law §804
8 NYCRR §§100.2(c)(3)

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