

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Board of Education is committed to the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use/abuse. This policy describes the philosophy of the district and the program elements the district will use to promote healthy lifestyles for its students and staff and to inhibit the use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances.

No person may use, possess, sell, or distribute alcohol or other substances, nor may use or possess drug paraphernalia on school grounds or at school-sponsored events, except drugs as prescribed by a physician. The terms "alcohol and other substances" shall be construed throughout this policy to refer to the use of all substances including, but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alikes, and any of those substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs." The inappropriate use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs shall also be prohibited.

Additionally, the following persons shall be prohibited from entering or shall be removed from school grounds or school-sponsored events: any person exhibiting behavior, conduct, or personal or physical characteristics indicative of having used or consumed alcohol and/or other substances, or any person who school personnel have reasonable grounds to suspect has used alcohol and/or other substances.

In order to educate students on the dangers associated with substance abuse, the health education curriculum shall include instruction concerning substance abuse for grades K-12.

Any staff member observing narcotics possession or usage by students shall report the incident immediately to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall then seek immediate action. Any narcotics found shall be confiscated immediately, followed by notification of the parents/guardians of the student(s) involved and the appropriate disciplinary action taken, up to and including permanent suspension and referral for prosecution. In its effort to maintain a substance-free environment, the district shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible with local, state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Philosophy

The district will use the following principles as guides for the development of its substance use/abuse prevention efforts and for any disciplinary measures related to alcohol and other substances:

- Alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use/abuse is preventable and treatable.
- Alcohol and other substance use/abuse inhibits the district from carrying out its central mission of educating students.
- The behavior of the Board of Education, administration, and all school staff should model the behavior asked of students.
- While the district can and must assume a leadership role in alcohol, tobacco, and other substance abuse prevention, this goal will be accomplished only through coordinated, collaborative efforts with parents, students, staff and the community as a whole.

Primary Prevention

The intent of primary prevention programming is to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use by students. The components of primary prevention programming shall include:

1. A sequential K-12 prevention curriculum that provides for the following:
 - accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol, tobacco, and other substances, including physical, psychological, and social consequences of their use/abuse.
 - information about the relationship of alcohol and other substance use/abuse to other health-compromising behavior such as HIV and AIDS, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, child abuse, suicide, and dropping out of school.
 - help students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol and other substances and to promote healthy lifestyles.
 - help students identify personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse and the steps needed for risk reduction.
 - help students develop a positive self-concept.
 - help students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce stress through nonchemical means.
2. Train school staff, parents/guardians to use the information and skills necessary to reinforce the components of this policy in the home, school and community.
3. Community education about the issues of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use/abuse as a basis for providing a consistent message to district youth.

4. Positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extra-curricular activities. Such activities will be planned collaboratively with students, school staff, parents, community members, and agencies.

Intervention

The intent of intervention programming is to eliminate any existing use/abuse of alcohol and other substances and to identify and provide supportive services to kindergarten through 12th grade students at high risk for such use/abuse. The components of intervention programming shall include:

1. provide alcohol and other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services for students.
2. develop a referral process between district schools and community providers.
3. identify and refer students to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substances requires counseling and/or treatment.
4. provide services to students in or returning from treatment to assure that the school environment supports the process of recovery initiated in the treatment program.
5. provide individual, group, and family counseling targeted at students at high risk, alcohol and/or other substance use/abuse.
6. educate parents on when and how to access the district's intervention services.
7. ensure confidentiality as required by federal and state law.

Disciplinary Measures

Disciplinary measures for students found to have used, or to be using, in possession of, selling, or distributing alcohol and/or other substances and for students possessing drug paraphernalia are outlined in the district's code of conduct. Students who are disciplined for any of these infractions will be referred to the intervention services.

Disciplinary measures for staff found to have used, or to be using, in possession of, selling, or distributing alcohol and/or other substances and for staff possessing drug paraphernalia are addressed in Education Law §§1711(5)(e), 2508(5), 3020-a, 3031 and 913, and Civil Service Law 75. District staff who are disciplined for any of these infractions may be subject to reprimand, suspension, or discharge as permitted by law and will be referred to appropriate intervention programs.

Staff Development

The Board recognizes that if the administrative, instructional, and noninstructional staff are to be responsible for implementing and modeling this policy, they must be trained about the components of an effective alcohol and other substance prevention program. Staff training will be an ongoing process including the following:

1. For all staff: (a) awareness of personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse so that they may identify personal use/abuse problems and seek assistance, (b) their role in implementing this policy, including how to identify students who exhibit high risk behaviors or who are using/abusing alcohol and other substances, and how to refer these students to the appropriate services established by this policy, (c) an understanding of why individuals use and abuse alcohol and other substances, and (d) awareness of the special needs of students returning from treatment.
2. Additionally for teachers: the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the district's K-12 alcohol and other substance prevention curriculum.
3. For intervention staff: appropriate staff training for those identified to carry out the intervention function to assure that their assessment, individual, group, and family counseling and referral skills support the needs of high risk, using, and abusing youth.
4. For prevention staff: appropriate staff training to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to support the application of prevention concepts through programming targeted at the school, home and community.
5. Newly hired staff will receive copies of the policy and training in the areas described in item 1.

Implementation, Dissemination, and Monitoring

The Board charges the Superintendent of Schools or designee to collaborate with district staff, parents, students, community members, organizations, and agencies, including alcohol and other substance abuse service providers, in developing the specific programs and strategies necessary to implement this policy.

Copies of this policy will be distributed to and reviewed with all district staff, students, and parents and will be made available to the community through its organizations.

The Superintendent is responsible for providing the Board with an annual review of this policy, the programs and strategies implementing it, and his recommendations for revisions, if any, in the policy.

Ref: Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 U.S.C. §§3171 et seq.
20 U.S.C. §114-5g
42USC §§5101, 11841
34 CFR Part 86
Education Law §§804; 912-a; 3214
General Municipal Law §239-u
Mental Hygiene Law §19.07(c)
Penal Law §§220.00 et seq.
Public Health Law §§, Article 33
8 NYCRR §§100.2(c); 135.3
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
Odenheim v. Carlstadt-East Rutherford Region School District, 211 N.J.
Super. 54, 510 AD2d 709 (1985)
People v. Scott D., 34 NY2d 483 (1974)
Matter of Wilson, 28 EDR 254 (1988)
Matter of Pollnow, 22 EDR 547 (1983)
Matter of Vetter, 20 EDR 547 (1981)
Matter of Rodriguez, 8 EDR 214 (1969)

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