

Students

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

The Governing Board believes that the use of alcohol and other drugs adversely affects a student's ability to achieve academic success, is physically and emotionally harmful, and has serious social and legal consequences. The Board desires to keep district schools free of alcohol and other drugs and desires that every effort be made to reduce student use of these substances. The Board perceives this effort as an important step towards preventing violence, promoting school safety and creating a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a comprehensive prevention program that includes instruction, intervention, referral to a rehabilitation program, enforcement/discipline, activities that promote the involvement of parents/guardians and coordination with appropriate community agencies and organizations.

(cf. 5131.61 - Drug Testing Program) (cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 0450 – Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 4020 – Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)

(cf. 6020 – Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent or designee shall clearly communicate to students, staff and parents/guardians all Board policies, regulations, procedures and school rules related to the use of alcohol and other drugs on school campuses or at school activities. Information about program needs and goals shall be widely distributed in the community. Special efforts shall be made to ensure that these materials are understood by parents/guardians and students of limited literacy or limited English proficiency.

(cf. 4020 – Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)

(cf. 6020 – Parent Involvement)

(cf. 1100 – Communication with the Public)

(cf. 5131.61 – Drug Testing)

(cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

The Board expects staff to conduct themselves in accordance with the district's philosophy related to alcohol and other drugs. Staff should help students see themselves as responsible partners in efforts to maintain a safe, constructive school climate.

Recognizing that keeping schools free of alcohol and other drugs is a concern common to the district and community, the Board supports cooperation among schools, parents/guardians, law enforcement and other appropriate community organizations involved in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse.

To obtain the widest possible input and support for district policies and programs, the Board shall support a districtwide school-community advisory committee who make recommendations related to the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse.

In order to maintain responsiveness to the current situation, the approved substance abuse policy shall undergo annual review by the Advisory Council.

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(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

The Board also encourages the use of site-level advisory groups in this area. (Health and Safety Code 11998.1)

The Board encourages the Superintendent, or his/her designee, to create, at each school, a student organization exclusively dedicated to creating and maintaining a safe, drug and gang free school environment.

Instruction

The district shall provide preventative instruction which helps students to avoid the use of alcohol or other drugs and teaches students how to influence their peers to avoid and/or discontinue the use of alcohol or other drugs. Instruction shall be designed to answer students' questions related to alcohol and other drugs.

The instruction programs shall be designed to help students obtain and use current and accurate information, develop self-esteem and maintain a positive self-concept, take positive actions to cope with stress, and use appropriate social and personal skills to resist involvement with alcohol and other drugs.

The curriculum will be K-8, comprehensive and sequential in nature and suited to meet the needs of students at their respective grade levels. All instruction and related materials shall consistently state that unlawful use of alcohol or other drugs is wrong and harmful. Instruction shall not include the concept of responsible use when such use is illegal.

The Board encourages staff to display conduct and attitudes which make them positive role models for students with regard to alcohol and other drugs. Staff should help students see themselves as responsible partners in efforts to maintain a safe, constructive school climate.

Teachers shall be trained to answer students' questions related to alcohol and drugs and to help students obtain and use current and accurate information, develop and maintain a positive self-concept, take positive actions to cope with stress, and use appropriate social and personal skills to resist involvement with alcohol and other drugs.

All instruction and related materials shall stress the concept of "no use" of alcohol or other drugs and shall not include the concept of "responsible use" when such use is illegal.

(cf. 6142.2 - AIDS Instruction)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Students**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS****Intervention, Referral and Recovering Student Support**

The Board believes that effective interventions should be available to assist students who use alcohol or other drugs. School staff, students and parent/guardians shall be informed about signs and symptoms which may indicate alcohol and other drug use and about appropriate agencies offering intervention programs, counseling and rehabilitation for students and their family members. The district encourages recovering students to avoid reinvolvement with alcohol and other drugs by providing school and/or community service activities designed to increase students' sense of community.

The Board strongly encourages any student who is using alcohol or drugs to discuss the matter with her/her parent/guardian or any staff member. Students who disclose their use of alcohol or other drugs when seeking help from an intervention or recovery program shall not be disciplined for such use. The Board encourages all school personnel be trained to identify symptoms which may indicate use of alcohol and other drugs.

The roles and responsibilities of staff in working with, intervening, and reporting students suspected of alcohol and other drug use shall be clearly defined in the Administrative Regulations.

Enforcement/Discipline

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or sale of alcohol and other drugs and related paraphernalia on school grounds, at school events, or in any situation in which the school is responsible for the conduct and well-being of students. Related paraphernalia includes any weapons (as defined in CPC 12020), clothing identified as dressing down (gang related dress) or any of the property related to the use or possession of alcohol or other drugs. Students possessing, selling and/or using alcohol or other drugs or related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension or expulsion.

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

School authorities may search students and school properties for the possession of alcohol and other drugs as long as such searches are conducted in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Confiscation of Electronic Signaling Devices

Because electronic signaling devices (beepers, cellular phones, etc.) are sometimes used to facilitate illegal drug transactions, the possession or use of any electronic signaling devices by students is prohibited on school premises, at all school-sponsored activities, and at any time while students are under the supervision and control of district employees. An exception shall be made

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only when the principal or designee has determined that the electronic device is essential for the student's health. Any electronic device so allowed shall be used only for health purposes. (Education Code 48901.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall confiscate unapproved electronic signaling devices from students. They may be returned to parents/guardians.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(SB1253 (Chapter 253, Statutes of 2002))

Review

The Board shall periodically review and revise policy and regulations.

Policy Adopted: March 7, 1991
Revised: May 2006
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WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
Westminster, California