DRUG FREE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education recognizes the grave threat posed to the students of the district by the actual or threatened illegal sale or distribution of controlled substances to the students. The Board supports programs which educate young people about the dangers of illegal drugs and seek to prevent substance abuse. The Board acknowledges the critical role which the Rochester schools play in ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff, and recognizes that the establishment of an effective Drug Free School Zone program requires the shared commitment and involvement of local governments, neighborhood association, youth groups, law enforcement agencies and schools working together with the residents of neighborhoods surrounding school buildings. The Board supports the efforts of local governments, neighborhood associations, youth groups, and law enforcement agencies to protect students by eradicating the sale or distribution of controlled and illegal drugs on school grounds.

The Board is, therefore, implacably opposed to the illegal sale or distribution of any controlled substance on or near school grounds and supports severe penalties for such acts. The Board has authorized the establishment of Drug Free School Zones around any and all of the Rochester City School District buildings which demonstrate mutual commitment and support of school-based management teams, neighboring residents, neighborhood associations, youth groups and law enforcement agencies.

Drug Free School Zones will consist of any Rochester City School District building, athletic playing field, playground or land within the real property boundary line of any school building, together with 1,000 feet beyond said real property boundary line.

Any school or community which plans for the implementation of a Drug Free School Zone program for any Rochester City School site shall submit to the Superintendent of Schools the written implementation plan which articulates, at a minimum, the following assurances:

1. The safety of students, staff and school property are of the highest priority.

2. Staff and students shall not be used as active agents in law enforcement activity.

3. The program will include preparation and placement of signs, informational presentations and distribution of informational brochures to students and neighborhood residents regarding the program meaning and expectations.

4. The roles of the schools, neighborhood associations, residents, and law enforcement agencies shall be clearly articulated and agreed to by all parties.

The Board declares its support for full and strict law enforcement of all laws designed to prevent the illegal sale or distribution of controlled substances within the district's Drug Free School Zones and its support for amendments to laws which increase criminal penalties for the sale or distribution of controlled substances and which enhance the enforcement of the Drug Free School Zone program.

Notes: Prior policy, Policy Manual, Drug Free Schools (December 5, 1991), Revised; Amended August 25, 2022 pursuant to Resolution No. 2022-23: 78

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