

STUDENT ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

I. Policy

The policy of the Board of Education is that it prohibits a student to be under the influence of, in possession of, involved in the sale of, or associated with a prohibited substance or paraphernalia in or about school grounds, activities, or in District sponsored transit.

II. Philosophy

A. The philosophy of the Waterville Central Board of Education is that all students shall abide by the local, state and federal laws and regulations as they apply to the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. The Board of Education prohibits the use of these substances or consumption on school property or at school-sponsored events.

B. While the District can and must assume a leadership role in alcohol and other substance use/abuse prevention, this goal will be accomplished only through coordinated, collaborative efforts with parents, students, staff, and the community as a whole.

III. Primary Prevention

A. 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 this programming shall include:

1. A sequential K-12 prevention curriculum that provides for:

A. Accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol, tobacco, and other substances, including the physical, psychological, and social consequences of their use/abuse.

B. Information about the relationship of alcohol and other substance use/abuse to other health-compromising issues such as AIDS, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, child abuse, suicide, and dropping out of school.

C. Helping students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol and other substances and to promote healthy life styles.

D. Helping students identify personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse and the steps needed for risk reduction.

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- E. Helping students develop a positive self-concept.
 - F. Helping students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce stress through non-chemical means.
2. Training school staff, parents and 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 our 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 by students, school staff, parents, community members, and agencies.

IV. Intervention

- A. 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 such programming shall include:
 1. Providing alcohol and other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services for students.
 2. Developing a referral process between District schools and community providers.
 3. Identifying and referring students to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substances requires counseling and/or treatment.
 4. Providing 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. Providing individual, group, and family counseling targeting students at high risk for alcohol and/or other substance use/abuse.
 6. Educating parents on when and how to access the District's intervention services.

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7. Confidentiality.

B. Pupil Services Intervention

1. Students in the District will benefit from members of the Pupil Personnel Team who are skilled in the identification of chemical abuse problems. The team consists of the School Social Worker, Psychologist, Guidance Personnel, Teachers, Nurse, and Administration. The team will respond to referrals received from teachers, students, parents/guardians and other school personnel, and will assess the nature and extent of the problem.
2. A student in the district may approach any staff member with their concerns regarding a peer's use of alcohol or drugs and expect that such staff member will relay this information to a member of the Pupil Service Team for evaluation. The student is guaranteed that any information shared will remain in strictest confidence. The student is also assured that the information is being used to seek help for said student, not to institute disciplinary measures.
3. If needed, the team will facilitate a diagnostic evaluation for chemical dependency/substance abuse and assist in assessing the appropriate treatment. During and subsequent to participation in rehabilitation, the team will respond and communicate if necessary to teachers, parents and administrators the progress of the student, while respecting federal and state confidentiality laws. The team will monitor referrals and review individual cases to insure the program best serves the needs of the students.

VI. Disciplinary Measures

- A. 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 on school property or at a school function are outlined in the District's Code of Conduct.
- B. Students who are disciplined for any of these infractions will be mandated to the intervention services established by this policy.

VII. Staff Development

- A. The Board recognizes that if the administrative, instructional, and non-instructional staff is to be responsible for understanding, implementing and modeling this policy, they must be trained about the components of an effective

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alcohol and other substance prevention program. Staff training will be an ongoing process and include:

1. For all staff: (a) an understanding of why individuals use and abuse alcohol and other substances, (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) awareness of personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse so that they may identify personal use/abuse problems and seek assistance, 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 assure that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to support the application of prevention concepts through programming targeted at the school, home, and community.

VIII. Implementation, Dissemination and Monitoring

- A. The Superintendent or designee is 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.
- B. Copies of this policy will be distributed to all district staff, students and parents annually.
- C. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for providing the board with the programs and strategies implementing the policy and his/her recommendations for revisions of the policy.

Waterville Central School District

Legal Ref: NYS Education Law Sections 804, 3028-a; 8 NYCRR 100.2

Adopted: 02/26/73

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