BP-5131.6 (a)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Note: Districts must have in place written standards to address the needs of students for whom mental health or substance abuse may be a contributing factor to noncompliance with the school disciplinary and safety program. AS 14.33.120(a)(6). In addition, districts receiving funds for prevention programs pursuant to the Drug-Free Schools and Community Act of 1986, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, are required to have a policy on drug abuse prevention instruction and procedures for eliminating the sale or use of alcohol and other drugs. ESSA also requires that those districts inform and involve parents in violence and drug prevention efforts. Districts must make reasonable efforts to inform parents of the content of safe and drug-free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction. If a parent objects in writing, the district must withdraw the student from the program or activity. AS 14.30.360 encourages districts to provide K-12 health education, including alcohol and drug abuse education. The following sample policy may revised as appropriate.

Note: Despite the passage of AS 17.38, effective February of 2015, which authorizes the use of marijuana under certain conditions, all use, possession and distribution of marijuana by those under 21 is illegal. In addition, as a recipient of federal funds, the district is obligated to maintain a drug-free workplace consistent with federal law, which prohibits the manufacture, distribution, possession and sale of marijuana for all individuals, regardless of age. For purposes of the district's policy and legal obligation, marijuana is prohibited.

Because 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 School Board intends to keep district schools free of alcohol and prohibited drugs.

Alcohol, marijuana, and other controlled substances are prohibited for use or possession by students. The School Board desires that every effort be made to reduce the chances that our students will begin or continue the use of alcohol and other drugs. The Superintendent or designee shall develop a comprehensive prevention program that includes instruction, intervention, recovering student support, and enforcement/discipline. The Superintendent or designee shall clearly communicate to students, staff and parents/guardians all School Board policies, regulations, procedures and school rules related to this prevention program. Special efforts shall be made to ensure that these materials are understood by parents/guardians and students of limited literacy or limited English proficiency.

BP-5131.6 (b)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Note: Drug use by students is not limited to illegal drugs and can also include abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. There is also a growing problem of youth using what are commonly referred to as designer or synthetic drugs. Designer or synthetic drugs come in various forms and may be a chemical compound, a plant-based substance, or a combination. Common names for these drugs include bath salts, K2, spice, salvia, and synthetic marijuana. These drugs have serious and dangerous effects. Synthetic marijuana is an illegal substance in Alaska. AS 11.71.040-.050, 11.71.160. The following optional language prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of "prohibited drugs," which includes all dangerous substances that pose a risk to district students.

Specifically, the Board prohibits the actual or attempted sale, distribution, use, or possession by a student of alcohol, prohibited drugs or inhalants, drug paraphernalia, substances that are designed to look or act like prohibited drugs or alcohol, or substances purported to be prohibited drugs or alcohol. Prohibited drugs are defined as:

1. Drugs that are illegal if possessed by those under 21, under any local, state, or federal law; or any drug that can be legally obtained but which has been obtained through illegal means.

2. Alternatives to illegal drugs such as designer or synthetic drugs, whether or not prohibited by law, which are purported to, designed to, or which do impair, restrict, or alter normal cognitive function when absorbed, ingested, injected, or inhaled.

3. Prescription drugs that are not legally obtained or prescribed, are not being used for the prescribed purpose, are being used in excess of the prescribed amount, are being used by other than the person to whom prescribed, or are being sold, traded or distributed.

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

Note: Districts are required to establish a citizen advisory committee in order to receive Public Law 99-570 funds. Additionally, AS 14.33.110 requires that the school disciplinary and safety program maintain community standards of school behavior that are developed by members of each school, including students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and other responsible persons.

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

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

The committee should make its recommendations based on input from students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and community members. The School Board also encourages the use of site-level advisory groups in this area.

Opioid Overdose Protection

In accordance with AS 14.30.145, the Superintendent shall ensure that:

1) A person trained to administer an opioid overdose drug is on site when the main school building of each school in the school district is open to students or staff, including periods when the school building is open before and after school hours and during weekend activities; and during each school-sponsored event conducted on school grounds.
2) The main school building of each school in the school district has at least two doses of an opioid overdose drug available on site; and
3) At least one dose of an opioid overdose drug is available during a school-sponsored event conducted on school grounds.

Per AS 14.30.145, a school district, school, or individual is not liable for civil damages for an injury to another individual resulting from a failure to possess or maintain an opioid overdose drug as required by the statute.

Instruction

The district shall provide preventative instruction which helps students avoid the use of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs and teaches students how to influence their peers to avoid and/or

discontinue the use of alcohol or drugs. Instruction shall be designed to answer students' questions related to alcohol and drugs.

The instructional programs will 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 drugs.

The curriculum will be K-12, comprehensive and sequential in nature and suited to meet the needs of students at their respective grade levels. All instruction and related materials shall stress the concept that alcohol and prohibited drugs can be dangerous and should never be used when such use is illegal.

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

BP-5131.6 (d)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

The School Board recognizes that children exposed to alcohol or other drugs prior to birth may have disabilities requiring special attention and modifications in the regular education program. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate staff training in the needs of such students as required by law.

Note: AS 14.20.680 requires training for teachers, administrators, counselors and specialists on the needs of students with alcohol or drug-related disabilities, including medical and psychological characteristics, family issues, and specific educational needs.

Intervention

The School Board recognizes that there are students on our campuses who use alcohol and other drugs and can benefit from intervention. The School Board supports intervention programs that include the involvement of students, parents/guardians and community agencies/organizations.

School personnel should be trained to identify symptoms which may indicate use of alcohol and other drugs. The Superintendent or designee shall identify responsibilities of staff in working with, intervening, and reporting students suspected of alcohol and other drug use.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed about the signs of alcohol and other drug use and about appropriate agencies offering counseling.

Nonpunitive Self-Referral

The School Board strongly encourages any student who is using alcohol or drugs to discuss the matter with his/her parent/guardian or with any staff member. Students who self-disclose past use of alcohol or other drugs in order to seek help to quit using shall not be punished or disciplined for such past use. State and local extra-curricular activities eligibility rules may apply further conditions related to the admission of drug or alcohol use.

Enforcement/Discipline

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or sale of alcohol and prohibited 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. Students possessing, selling and/or using alcohol, marijuana or other drugs or related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension or expulsion.

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

BP-5131.6 (e)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

04.16.080 Sales or consumption at school events
14.20.680 Required alcohol and drug related disabilities training
14.30.145 Opioid overdose drugs
14.30.360 Curriculum (Health and Safety Education)
14.33.110-.140 Required school disciplinary and safety program
17.38.010-900 The regulation of marijuana
47.37.045 Community action against substance abuse grant fund

UNITED STATES CODE

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7116, 7163, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 114-95

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