

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

The Board of Education recognizes its share of the responsibility to provide for the health and safety of students attending school in the district. The Board is concerned about the problem of drug use/abuse in society and recognizes that illegal and/or inappropriate use of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco products, jeopardizes the physical health, as well as the social, emotional, and intellectual development of students.

In order to work toward the goal of providing a drug-free environment in the schools, the objectives of the Board are as follows:

1. to provide for education of the school population regarding the potential physical, psychological and legal consequences of drug use.
2. to establish communication and facilitate cooperation with parent and appropriate public and private community resources to prevent drug abuse.

Therefore, in order to accomplish these objectives, the possession, consumption, other use or sale of drugs, including alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, or drug paraphernalia will not be allowed on school property, in school vehicles or at school-related activities, on or off campus.

Emphasis will be placed on prevention education and intervention services including referral for rehabilitation or therapeutic services. Provisions will be made to cooperate with community programs and services to enhance the probability of successful reentry into school for those students who have been referred to public and private treatment for chemical dependency.

Primary Prevention

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

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

Accurate and age-appropriate information about drugs including alcohol and tobacco, with emphasis on the physical, psychological and social consequences for their use/abuse and on the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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

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

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

Helping students develop a positive self-concept.

Helping students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce such stress through non-chemical means.

2. Providing information to parents and guardians to use to reinforce the components of this policy and regulation in the home, school and community.
3. Cooperating with community agencies to provide a consistent message to district youth about the issues of alcohol, tobacco and other substance use/abuse.
4. Promoting positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extracurricular activities.

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 such programming shall include:

1. providing alcohol and other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services for students;
2. developing a communication process between district schools and community providers;
3. identifying and referring students to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substance requires counseling and/or treatment; and
4. providing appropriate confidential services to students in or returning from treatment to ensure that the school environment supports the process of recovery initiated in the treatment program.

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)

Adoption date: June 4, 2002

Effective: July 1, 2002