

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE REGULATION

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 alcohol and other substances, including the physical, psychological and social consequences for their use/abuse.
 - Information about the relationship of alcohol and other substance use/abuse to other health-compromising behaviors such as 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 other substances and to promote healthy life styles.
 - Helping students identify personal risk factors for alcohol 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. 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 and other substance use/abuse as a basis for providing a consistent message to district youth.
4. Positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extracurricular activities. Such activities will be planned collaboratively with students, school staff, parents, community members, and agencies.

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 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 substance 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 targeted at students at high risk for alcohol and/or other substances use/abuse;
6. educating parents on when and how to access the district's intervention services; and
7. ensuring confidentiality as required by federal and state law.

Disciplinary Measures

Disciplinary measures for students found to have used or to be using, in possession of, or distributing alcohol and/or other substances, and for students possessing drug paraphernalia are outlined in the district's policies on Penalties and Student Rights and Responsibilities. Similar disciplinary measures for district staff are addressed in, among other statutes, Education Law Sections 1711(5)(e), 2508(5), 3020-a, 3031 and 913.

Students who are disciplined for any of these infractions will be mandated to participate in the intervention services established by Board policy. Where the requirements of Drug-Free Workplace legislation apply and in other situations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools, district staff will be referred to the Employee Assistance Program.

Staff Development

The Board of Education recognizes that if the administrative, instructional, and non-instructional staff is to be responsible for understanding, implementing and modeling the district's policy and regulation on student Drug and Alcohol Abuse, they must be trained about the components of an effective alcohol and other substance prevention program. Staff training will be an ongoing process including the following:

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 curricula.
3. For intervention staff: appropriate staff training for those identified to carry out the intervention function to assure that their assessment of individual, group, and family counseling and referral skills support the needs of high risk, using and abusing youth.

Implementation, Dissemination, and Monitoring

The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools 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 Board policy.

Upon adoption, copies of Board policy and this regulation will be distributed to and reviewed with all district staff, students, and parents annually and will be disseminated to the community through its organizations.

The Superintendent is responsible for providing the Board with an annual review of this policy and regulation, the programs and strategies implementing it, and his or her recommendations for revisions.

Adoption date: July 12, 1994