

Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District Substance Use Prevention Plan

Introduction:

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District (HWRSD) seeks a safe, healthy and drug free environment for its students and staff. To that end, the HWRSD subscribes to a comprehensive plan for substance use prevention and education that includes:

- (1) consultation with parents, students, and key community stakeholders to better understand local conditions;
- (2) training for school personnel so they may understand their roles in prevention by fostering positive adult relationships, better recognize early indicators of potential problems, and address student needs for support and referral
- (3) implementation of evidence-base prevention curricula for all students that emphasize resilience, problem-solving and help-seeking
- (4) development of a continuum of tiered supports for students who may be at higher level of risk; and
- (5) data-based decisions to improve prevention and intervention strategies based on local conditions, and assess the effectiveness of selected programs and strategies

In addition, the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District serves as the lead agency for the Hampden Wilbraham Safe and Healthy Students Coalition, and as such, is a key facilitator in the active development and evaluation of prevention efforts impacting the school district and the communities of Hampden and Wilbraham.

The purpose of the District's policies related to substance abuse prevention and intervention, and their corresponding strategies and procedures, are:

- to ensure student and staff safety in a drug-free environment
- to maintain compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's guidance on school policies regarding substance use prevention, as specific by M.G.L.c. 52 of the Acts of 2016 and MIAA rules/regulations for student athletes
- to provide guidance and resources for school personnel, administrators, parents and students

The following policies have been approved by the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District and are in place for the 2016-17 school year. Corresponding student expectations, disciplinary procedures, information about access to supports are found in the annually updated Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District's Student Handbook.

TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO

In accordance with state and federal law, the District shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally based drug, alcohol and tobacco education and prevention programs in grades K-12.

The drug, alcohol and tobacco education program shall address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug, alcohol and tobacco use. It shall include special instruction as to the effects upon the human system; the emotional, psychological and social dangers of such use with emphasis on nonuse by school age children and the illegal aspects of such use. The program also shall include information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

The objectives of this program, as stated below, are rooted in the Committee's belief that prevention requires education, and that the most important aspect of the policies and guidelines of the District should be the education of each individual to the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

To create an awareness of the total drug problem--prevention, education, treatment, rehabilitation, and law enforcement on the local, state, national and international levels.

To relate the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco to physical, mental, social and emotional practices.

To develop the student's ability to make intelligent choices based on facts and to develop the courage to stand by one's own convictions.

To understand the personal, social and economic problems causing the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

To develop an interest in preventing illegal use of drugs in the community.

The curriculum, instructional materials and outcomes used in this program shall be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the School Committee.

LEGAL REFS. M.G.L. 71:1

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DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

In view of the fact that the use of drugs and alcohol can endanger the health and safety of the user, and recognizing the deleterious effect the use of alcoholic beverages or drugs can have on the maintenance of general order and discipline, the School Committee prohibits the use or consumption of any drug or alcoholic beverage on school property or at any school function.

Additionally, any student, regardless of age, who is under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages prior to attendance at, or participation in, a school-sponsored activity, will be barred from that activity and subject to disciplinary action.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 272:40A

CROSS REF.: IHAMA, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco GBEC, Drug Free Workplace Policy