

**PROPOSED REVISION OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE
SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION POLICY
FEBRUARY 8, 2024: 4th READING AND POSSIBLE VOTE**

I 3 e. Substance Use Prevention and Education (Voted 12/1/16, #16-76) (Replaced Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Voted 3/16/70, #70-92)

Purpose:

Mass. Gen Laws c. 71, s.96 requires each public school:

- to have policies regarding substance abuse prevention and the education of its students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco;
- to notify students' parents or guardians about the related policies and procedures, professional development support of staff; and
- to post the policies on the school district website. And requires schools to file these policies with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

In accordance with state and federal law, and this policy, the PSB shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate, evidence-based alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarette/vaping devices, tobacco, and drug prevention education programs in grades 5-12.

The alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarette/vaping devices, tobacco, and drug prevention program shall address the legal, social, and health consequences of their use, with emphasis on non-use by school-age children. The program also shall include information about effective techniques and skill development for delaying and abstaining from using, as well as skills for addressing peer pressure to use alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarettes/vaping devices, tobacco, or other drugs.

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 children and youth on healthy decision-making:

- To prevent, delay, and/or reduce use of alcohol, cannabis (in all its forms, including edibles, vapes, candles, and candies, such as gummy bears), e-cigarettes/vaping devices, tobacco, and other drugs among children and youth.
- To increase students' understanding of the legal, social, and health consequences of using alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarettes/vaping devices, tobacco, and other drugs.
- To teach students self-management skills, social skills, negotiation skills, and refusal skills that will help them to make healthy decisions and avoid the use of alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarettes/vaping devices, tobacco, and other drugs.
- To teach students to respect all members of their school community by refraining from the use of alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarettes/vaping devices, tobacco, and other drugs in a manner that could expose and thus adversely impact the health of others who abstain from such use. Specifically, students shall be instructed not to smoke anywhere on school grounds, including bathrooms.

The curriculum, instructional materials, and outcomes used in this program shall be recommended by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

In addition to providing the foregoing education on substance use, the district shall remind students that, per M.G.L. c. 71 37H, it is unlawful for any student to use tobacco products of any type, including e-cigarettes or vaping devices, in school facilities, on school grounds, or on school buses, during normal school hours..

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a controlled substance as defined in G.L. c. 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal. Pursuant to G.L. c. 94C, s. 32J and 21 U.S.C. s. 860, the possession of drugs, including marijuana, with the intent to distribute or sell said drugs will result, if convicted, in a mandatory sentence of not less than two years if the possession occurs within 300 feet of a school within the hours of 5 AM and midnight, regardless of whether the possessor is aware of the school's proximity. Pursuant to G.L. 272, s. 40A, anyone who gives, sells, or has in their possession any alcoholic beverage in any public school building can be punished by imprisonment up to thirty days or a fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

This policy shall be posted on the district's website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents in accordance with state law. Additionally, the district shall file a copy of this policy with DESE in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE.