

**SECTION J
STUDENTS**

8c. Prohibition of the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs by Students

(Voted 12/1/16, #16-76)

The School Committee prohibits the possession, use, consumption, purchase, selling or the giving away by students of alcohol; tobacco products, including vapor/E-cigarettes; drugs; steroids; or any controlled substance on school property or at any school function.

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

This policy shall be posted on the district's website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents of this policy 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.

Early Identification and Intervention

To prepare them to identify early warning signs of substance abuse faculty and staff will participate in professional development and training programs as deemed necessary by the superintendent or his designee and in compliance with state regulation.

Early warning symptoms of substance abuse may include; extreme emotional swings from anger to depressive episodes, sudden decline in attendance; lack of interest in once desired activities, refusal to comply with discipline, inattention and lethargic displays, weight fluctuation, changes in hygiene, uncommunicative when approached by support staff,

Counseling/Intervention Referral

When an employee identifies a student who may be abusing either drugs or alcohol, school administration in conjunction with the school counselor should meet with the student, parents/guardians of the student, and explore possible interventions which may include counseling or referral to agency to respond to student's needs. The school nurse should also be consulted/included when scheduling these conversations and dealing with substance use/abuse concerns.

School Re-Entry

When a student returns from treatment for substance abuse, follow up support is a critical phase of a student's recovery. A re-entry care plan should be devised by the appropriate school staff members in collaboration with family and student and the treatment facility/agency. The plan should include a review of a student's school program with parents, school counselor, and appropriate support staff members with follow up scheduled meetings.

Professional Development and Training of Staff

The School Committee acknowledges that even though a student may not possess or abuse substances at school or on school grounds, he or she may still be experiencing involvement with substance abuse which requires the assistance of school personnel. It is the goal of PSB that staff

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and faculty should be able to recognize symptoms in students which may serve as an early warning indicators of substance abuse by student that require immediate intervention.

Faculty and staff see students on a daily basis and often recognize changes in student performance, demeanor, and appearance that indicate a student may be at risk. The PSB will provide ongoing professional tiered training (beginning with the initial hiring onboarding), so that all staff know district policies, procedures and protocols for prevention, intervention, and follow-up in preventing and responding to substance use and abuse.

All faculty and staff will be provided with training on the early warning signs and behaviors that indicate a student may be experiencing substance use problems, and should be aware of building based referral systems and other protocols to follow.

SOURCE: MASC March 2016

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:1; 71:96
M.G.L. 71:2A; 71:96; 272:40A

CROSS REFS: GBEC, Drug Free Workplace Policy
JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
IHAMB, Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs
GBEC, Drug Free Workplace Policy