

AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION POLICIES

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Substance Abuse

GBEC

The School Committee is committed to providing a drug free workplace in observance and enforcement of state and federal laws regulating the use of alcohol and controlled substances. It is equally committed to creating conditions conducive to the physical and psychological health of everyone who works or studies within its jurisdiction. This document sets forth certain principles and practices officially adopted in pursuance of these commitments.

I. Guiding Principles

The substance abuse policies of the Avon Public Schools are guided by the following principles:

1. Through judicious policy, sound instruction, and positive example, the School Department should promote the good health of those it serves and discourage practices which are clearly harmful.
2. Since the use of addictive, intoxicating, or psychoactive substances or the improper use of medication interferes with the educational process, it constitutes a legitimate object of concern and regulation by the School Department.
3. Such substance abuse is preventable and treatable.
4. In everything connected with the problem of substance abuse, it is important that the attitudes and behavior of the members of the School Committee, the administration, and the entire school staff should provide a model worthy of respect and emulation.
5. The success of the School Department's efforts to prevent substance abuse requires the coordinated collaboration of all other segments of the community, especially of parents and of others who deal with young people and are responsible for their development and well-being.

II. General Regulations

In keeping with these principles, the School Department of the Town of Avon lays down the following general regulation:

No person may, while within the jurisdiction of the School Committee of the Town of Avon, use, possess, manufacture, sell, distribute, or be under the influence of any intoxicating or illegal substance, or be in the possession of any equipment or paraphernalia connected with the manufacture or use of any substance prohibited under this or any other School Department regulation.

In this regulation and in any further statements and policies explaining or implementing it, the term “illegal substance” shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; further, the term “intoxicating substance” shall be construed to include any material whose absorption into the tissues of the body noticeably affects the normal functioning of the nervous or muscular systems. It should therefore be noted that this regulation prohibits not only all use or possession of illegal substances and the implements for their use, but also extends this prohibition to any other substance including medications (except used as directed under prescription), whose use or misuse results in intoxication as defined above.

The jurisdiction of the School Committee extends to all property owned, administered, or hired by the School Department; to the activities of students, faculty, administration, and other employees during the hours of the school day and at school-sponsored events; and, in the case of students, to the time of their travel to and from school and school-sponsored events.

III. Implementation of Policy

1. The School Committee charges the Superintendent of Schools with the chief responsibility for the implementation of this policy. In cooperation with administrators, faculty, staff, parents, students, and other community members and organizations, and in collaboration with agencies which provide self-help or professional services in the treatment and prevention of substance abuse, he/she will develop the specific plans and programs deemed necessary to implement the School Department’s substance abuse policies effectively.
2. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for the publication of this policy and its distribution to the students, parents, and employees of the Avon Public Schools, as well as for disseminating knowledge of its more important provisions among the local public at large.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall take care especially to see that this policy is well known and clearly explained to everyone who may be covered by it or directly involved in its implementation. He/She shall further be responsible for initiating an annual review of this policy and its means of implementation in all the schools and for making recommendations concerning its revision.
4. All faculty and other staff members shall be expected to remain well informed about substance abuse problems and to exercise the vigilance needed to identify such problems and to make appropriate referrals. They should pay particular attention to any dramatic or prolonged decline in a person’s level of performance and to other patterns of behavior or attitude which experience and research have shown to be typical signs of substance abuse.
5. Any student or employee of the Avon Public Schools who has a substance abuse problem is encouraged to turn to the personnel, programs, and facilities of the school department for direct help or for referral to other agencies. It is the policy

of the School Committee that anyone who thus voluntarily seeks the help of school department personnel or programs in dealing with a substance abuse problem shall enjoy the guarantees of confidentiality and of immunity from any disciplinary action resulting from disclosures made in the course of seeking such help.

LEGAL REF.: The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

Adopted: January 9, 1981
Amended: February 13, 2006
Reviewed: February 2016

Avon School Committee

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Use of Tobacco Products

GBED

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H states in part:

“The Superintendent of every school district shall publish the district’s policies pertaining to the conduct of teachers and students. Said policies shall prohibit the use of any tobacco products within the school buildings, the school facilities or on the school grounds or on school buses by any individual, including school personnel.”

As such, it is the policy of the Avon School Committee that the use of tobacco products within the school buildings, the school facilities, on school buses, or anywhere on school grounds is expressly prohibited.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:37H

Adopted: February 27, 2006
Reviewed: March 2016

Avon School Committee

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TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO

IHAMB

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.

SOURCE: MASC

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

Adopted: September 19, 2016

Avon School Committee

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Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Use by Students Prohibited

JICH

A student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy or sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product, including vapor/E-cigarettes; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. The School Committee prohibits the use or consumption by students of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs 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.

SOURCE: MASC March 2016

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [71:2A](#); [71:96](#); [272:40A](#)

CROSS REF.: [IHAMB](#), Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs

[GBEC](#), Drug Free Workplace Policy

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. [272:40A](#)

Adopted: April 24, 2006
Amended: October 3, 2016

Avon School Committee