

TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

The Board of Education views with grave concern the serious implications of the use and/or abuse of harmful substances by people, particularly young people, throughout the United States and especially in the District. In keeping with its primary responsibility, the education of youth, the Board charges the professional staff of the District to continue to investigate the causes of student involvement with the use and/or abuse of harmful substances, and to develop suitable preventive measures however and whenever feasible.

For the purposes of this policy, harmful substances shall include, but are not limited to, drugs (both illegal drugs and the unauthorized use of prescription drugs), alcohol, tobacco, steroids, cannabis, cannabinoid hemp, electronic cigarettes, vapes, cigars, or illegal inhalants.

The Board and the professional staff shall continue to seek ways to educate students and District staff about the dangers of the use and/or abuse of harmful substances. Instruction will include sessions about the causes and effects of the use and abuse of harmful substances, especially in young people. In addition, all high school students will receive instruction on the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

The following objectives must be realized if the goal of minimizing substance abuse is to be achieved:

1. students shall be encouraged to identify the problem and its causes, and to organize to solve it,
2. they should understand the nature of harmful substances,
3. they shall be encouraged to develop a set of values and behavioral insights which shall give them a deeper understanding of themselves and society,
4. they shall be encouraged to identify the variety of alternate forms of behavior, other than drug or alcohol abuse and tobacco use, which are available to satisfy their needs, and
5. they shall be encouraged to make constructive decisions concerning the use of harmful substances.

While the Board in no way condones the abuse of illegal or harmful substances, it is in the interest of student and staff health that a climate be created in all District facilities so that individuals with problems may seek to receive help without fear of reprisal.

Ref: Education Law §§804, 806-a; 3028-a
8 NYCRR §§100.2(c)(4); 135.3(a)

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