San Mateo County Board of Education Policy

Students  

Alcohol and Other Drugs

Philosophy

Because the use of alcohol and other drugs adversely affects a student’s ability to achieve academic success, is physically and emotionally harmful, and has serious social and legal consequences, the Board affirms the goal of keeping programs and schools free of alcohol and other drugs.

The Board seeks to reduce the likelihood that our students will begin or continue the use of alcohol and other drugs. The Superintendent or designee shall develop a comprehensive prevention program that includes instruction, intervention, recovering student support, and enforcement/discipline. The Superintendent or designee shall clearly communicate to students, staff, and parents/guardians all Board policies, regulations, procedures, and school rules related to this prevention program. Special efforts shall be made to ensure that these materials are understood by parents/guardians and students of limited literacy or limited English proficiency.

Recognizing that keeping schools free of alcohol and other drugs is a concern common to schools and the community, the Board supports cooperation among programs, schools, parent/guardians, law enforcement, and other appropriate community organizations involved in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse.

The Board encourages the use of site-level advisory groups in this area.

Instruction

The Office shall provide preventive instruction which helps students avoid the use of alcohol or other drugs and teaches students how to influence their peers to avoid and/or discontinue the use of alcohol or other drugs. Instruction shall be designed to answer students’ questions related to alcohol and other drugs.

The instructional programs will help students obtain and use current and accurate information, develop and maintain a positive self-concept, take positive actions to cope with stress, and use appropriate social and personal skills to resist involvement with alcohol and other drugs.

The curriculum will be comprehensive and sequential in nature and designed to meet the needs of students at their respective grade levels.
Students

The Board encourages staff to display attitudes which make them positive role models for students with regard to alcohol and other drugs. Staff should help students see themselves as responsible partners in efforts to maintain a safe, constructive school climate.

All instruction and related materials shall stress the concept of no unlawful use of alcohol or other drugs and shall not include the concept of responsible use when such use is illegal.

Intervention

The Board recognizes that there are students who use alcohol and other drugs and can benefit from intervention. The Board supports intervention programs that include the involvement of students, parents/guardians, and community agencies/organizations.

The Board finds it essential that school personnel be trained to identify symptoms which may indicate use of alcohol and other drugs. The responsibilities of staff in working with, intervening, and reporting students suspected of alcohol and other drug use shall be clearly defined in administrative regulations.

Administrative regulations shall also identify the responsibilities of staff in working with law enforcement agencies. The Superintendent or designee shall provide law enforcement agencies with copies of all Board Policies, regulations, procedures, and school rules related to this program.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed about the signs of alcohol and other drug use and about appropriate agencies offering counseling.

Nonpunitive Self-Referral

The Board strongly encourages any student who is using alcohol or drugs to discuss the matter with his/her parent/guardian or with any staff member. If the student is uncomfortable doing this, (s)he is encouraged to ask a friend to discuss the problem with a parent/guardian or staff member. Students who disclose use of alcohol or other drugs when seeking help from an intervention or recovery program shall not be punished or disciplined for such past use.

Recovering Student Support

The Board recognizes the presence of recovering students in the schools and the necessity to support these students in avoiding re-involvement with alcohol and other drugs.

Enforcement/Discipline

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use, or sale of alcohol and other drugs and related paraphernalia on school grounds, at school events, or in any situation in which the school is responsible for the conduct and well-being of students.
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Students possessing, selling, and/or using alcohol or other drugs or related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension or expulsion.

School authorities may search students and school properties for the possession of alcohol and other drugs as long as such searches are conducted in accordance with law, Board Policy, and administrative regulations.

Legal References:

Education Code 51203 Instruction upon the nature of alcohol, narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs
Health and Safety Code 11032 Narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs

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