

The BOCES is committed to the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use/abuse. This policy describes the philosophy of the BOCES. The BOCES will promote healthy life styles for its students. Students who attend BOCES programs will receive instruction in substance abuse prevention prior to entering BOCES. At the beginning of each school year, BOCES administrative staff will review the rules and regulations regarding alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse with students. BOCES will strive to enhance and support the alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse policies of component districts that send students to BOCES programs.

No student may, use, possess, sell or distribute alcohol or other substances, or use or possess drug paraphernalia on school property or a school sponsored event. The terms “alcohol and other substances” shall be construed throughout this policy to refer to the use of all substances including but not limited to alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine (crack), LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-a-likes, and any of those substances commonly referred to as “designer drugs.” The inappropriate use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs shall also be prohibited.

Additionally, the following persons shall be prohibited from entering school grounds or school sponsored events: any person exhibiting behavior, conduct, or personal or physical characteristics indicative of having used or consumed alcohol or other substances.

The BOCES will use the following principles as guides for the development of its substance use/abuse prevention efforts and for any disciplinary measures related to alcohol and other substances:

1. Alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use/abuse is preventable and treatable.
2. Alcohol and other substance use/abuse inhibits the BOCES from carrying out its central mission of educating students.

Adults are encouraged to model the behavior asked of students. Employees of BOCES who exhibit symptoms of substance abuse will be provided with information regarding the services available at the Jefferson County Committee on Alcoholism, Inc. for assistance and treatment.

While the BOCES can and must assume a leadership role in alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use/abuse prevention, this goal will be accomplished only through coordinated, collaborative efforts with home school staff, parents, students, and the community as a whole.

Primary Prevention

The intent of primary prevention programming is to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use by students. The components of this programming shall include:

1. Support of a sequential home school prevention curriculum that provides for:
 - a. Accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol, tobacco, and other substances, including the physical, psychological, and social consequences of their use/abuse.

- b. Information about the relationship of alcohol and other substance use/abuse to other health-compromising issues such as AIDS, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, child abuse, suicide, and dropping out of school.
 - c. Helping students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol and other substances and to promote healthy life styles.
 - d. Helping students identify personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse and the steps needed for risk reduction.
 - e. Helping students develop a positive self-concept.
 - f. Helping students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce stress through non-chemical means.
2. Training school staff, parents and guardians to use the information and skills necessary to reinforce the components of this policy in the home, school and community.
 3. Community education about the issues of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use/abuse as a basis for providing a consistent message to district youth.
 4. Positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extra-curricular activities. Such activities will be planned collaboratively by students, school staff, parents, community members and agencies.

Intervention

The intent of intervention programming is to eliminate any existing use/abuse of alcohol and other substances, and to identify and provide supportive services to students at high risk for such use/abuse.

The components of such programming shall include:

1. Providing alcohol and other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services for students.
2. BOCES will provide students with a comprehensive listing of school district and community agency services available to those individuals in need of assistance.
3. Identifying and referring students to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substances requires counseling and/or treatment.
4. Providing support to students in or returning from treatment to assure that the school environment supports the process of recovery initiated in the treatment program.
5. Providing individual and group counseling targeted at students at high risk for alcohol and/or other substance use/abuse.

6. Parents will be provided with the information in student handbooks regarding the rules and regulations governing alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse. This information will also include a listing of intervention services available at BOCES as well as through community agencies.
7. Confidentiality as prescribed by federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Disciplinary Measures

Disciplinary measures for students found to have used or to be using, in possession of, selling, or distributing alcohol and/or other substances and for students possessing drug paraphernalia are outlined in the District's policy on Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Legal ref: Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 USC §§3192(d); 3171 *et seq.*; 3224a *et seq.*
New York Education Law, §§804; 912-a; 3214
New York Mental Hygiene Law, §19.07(c)
New York Penal Law, §§220.00 *et seq.*
New York Public Health Law, Article 33
8 NYCRR §§100.2(c); 135.3

Cross ref: 5210, Student Rights and Responsibilities
5200, Student Conduct and Discipline
5400, Student Records

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