

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

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 School Board intends to keep district schools free of alcohol and other drugs.

Alcohol, marijuana, and other controlled substances are prohibited for use or possession by students. The School Board desires that every effort be made to reduce the chances 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 School 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.

Specifically, the Board prohibits the actual or attempted sale, distribution, use, or possession by a student of alcohol, prohibited drugs or inhalants, drug paraphernalia, substances that are designed to look or act like prohibited drugs or alcohol, or substances purported to be prohibited drugs or alcohol. Prohibited drugs are defined as:

1. Drugs that are illegal if possessed by those under 21, under any local, state, or federal law; or any drug that can be legally obtained but which has been obtained through illegal means.
2. Alternatives to illegal drugs such as designer or synthetic drugs, whether or not prohibited by law, which are purported to, designed to, or which do impair, restrict, or alter normal cognitive function when absorbed, ingested, injected, or inhaled.
3. Prescription drugs that are not legally obtained or prescribed, are not being used for the prescribed purpose, are being used in excess of the prescribed amount, are being used by other than the person to whom prescribed, or are being sold, traded or distributed.

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

(cf. 1410 Interagency Cooperation for Student & Staff Safety)

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To obtain the widest possible input and support for district policies and programs, the Board shall appoint a district-wide school-community advisory committee the PTSA as the Board's advisory committee to make recommendations related to the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

Instruction

The district shall provide preventative instruction which helps students avoid the use of alcohol, marijuana, 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 K-12, comprehensive and sequential in nature and suited to meet the needs of students at their respective grade levels. 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.

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

The Board recognizes that children exposed to alcohol or other drugs prior to birth may have disabilities requiring special attention and modifications in the regular education program. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate staff training in the needs of such students as required by law.

(cf. 6142.2 - AIDS Instruction)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

Intervention

The Board recognizes that there are students on our campuses 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.

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School personnel should be trained to identify symptoms which may indicate use of alcohol and other drugs. The Superintendent or designee shall identify responsibilities of staff in working with, intervening, and reporting students suspected of alcohol and other drug use.

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, he/she is encouraged to ask a friend to discuss the problem with a parent/guardian or staff member. Students who disclose past use of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs when seeking help from an intervention or recovery program shall not be punished or disciplined for such past use.

However, a violation of the Alaska Student Activities Association (ASAA) Play for Keeps, Tobacco, Alcohol and Controlled Substances (TAD) Policy, will be reported as required by membership in ASAA and students will be subject to the ASAA-mandated penalty as outlined in the most current ASAA Handbook. Before returning to practice, students must submit, at their own expense, a negative drug/alcohol test.

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. The Board shall provide ongoing school activities which enhance recovery.

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or distribution 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. Students possessing, selling and/or using alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs or related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension or expulsion.

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

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

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

STUDENTS

BP 5131.6(d)

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Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

04.16.080 Sales or consumption at school events

14.20.680 Training required for teachers and other school officials

14.30.360 Curriculum (Health and Safety Education)

14.33.110-.140 Required school disciplinary and safety program

17.38.010-900 The regulation of marijuana

47.37.045 Community action against substance abuse grant fund

UNITED STATES CODE

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7116, 7163, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110)

Revised 10/2015

Revised 1/2019

Reviewed 11/2021