

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: June 6, 2023

NUMBER: 23-126

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions to BP 5131.6,
Students, Alcohol and
Other Drugs; First Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Improve Stakeholder Communication.

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5131.6, Students, Alcohol and Other Drugs and open for public comments.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when changes in law occur or when specific need occurs. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board. This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5131.6, Students, Alcohol and Other Drugs.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open for public comments.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 5131.6, Students, Alcohol and Other Drugs as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 5131.6 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 5131.6, Students, Alcohol and Other Drugs as presented and open for public comments.

BP 5131.6 ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Note: Districts must have in place written standards to address the needs of students for whom mental health or substance abuse may be a contributing factor to noncompliance with the school disciplinary and safety program. [-AS 14.33.120\(a\)\(6\)](#). In addition, districts receiving funds for prevention programs pursuant to the Drug-Free Schools and Community Act of 1986, as amended by the [Every Student Succeeds of 2015](#) ~~No Child Left Behind Act of 2001~~, are required to have a policy on drug abuse prevention instruction and procedures for eliminating the sale or use of alcohol and other drugs. [ESSA-NCLB](#) also requires that those districts inform and involve parents in violence and drug prevention efforts. Districts must make reasonable efforts to inform parents of the content of safe and drug-free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction. If a parent objects in writing, the district must withdraw the student from the program or activity. [-AS 14.30.360](#) encourages districts to provide K-12 health education, including alcohol and drug abuse education. The following sample policy may be revised as appropriate. Note: Despite the passage of [-AS 17.38](#), effective February of 2015, which authorizes the use of marijuana under certain conditions, all use, possession and distribution of marijuana by those under 21 is illegal. In addition, as a recipient of federal funds, the district is obligated to maintain a drug-free workplace consistent with federal law, which prohibits the manufacture, distribution, possession and sale of marijuana for all individuals, regardless of age. For purposes of the ~~district's~~ ~~district's~~ policy and legal obligation, marijuana is prohibited.

(cf. E 4020 ~~--Drug and Alcohol -- Free Workplace Notice to Employees~~)

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 prohibited 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.

Note: Drug use by students is not limited to illegal drugs and can also include abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. There is also a growing problem of youth using what are commonly referred to as designer or synthetic drugs. Designer or synthetic drugs come in various forms and may be a chemical

compound, a plant-based substance, or a combination. Common names for these drugs include bath salts, K2, spice, salvia, and synthetic marijuana. These drugs have serious and dangerous effects. Synthetic marijuana is an illegal substance in Alaska. [AS 11.71.040-.050](#), [11.71.160](#). The following optional language prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of "prohibited drugs," which includes all dangerous substances that pose a risk to district students.

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 School Board supports cooperation among schools, parents/guardians, law enforcement and other appropriate community organizations involved in preventing alcohol and drug abuse.

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

Note: Districts are required to establish a citizen advisory committee in order to receive [Public Law 99-570](#) funds. Additionally, [AS 14.33.110](#) requires that the school disciplinary and safety program maintain community standards of school behavior that are developed by members of each school, including students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and other responsible persons.

To obtain the widest possible input and support for district policies and programs, the School Board shall appoint a districtwide school-community advisory committee to make recommendations related to the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse. The committee should make its recommendations based on input from students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and community members. The School Board also encourages the use of site-level advisory groups in this area.

(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 drugs. Instruction shall be designed to answer students' questions related to alcohol and 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 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 that alcohol and prohibited drugs can be dangerous and should never be used when such use is illegal.

The School Board encourages staff to display attitudes and behaviors 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 School 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.

Note: [AS 14.20.680](#) requires training for teachers, administrators, counselors and specialists on the needs of students with alcohol or drug-related disabilities, including medical and psychological characteristics, family issues, and specific educational needs.

(cf. 6142.2 - AIDS Instruction)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

Intervention

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

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 School 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. Students who self-disclose past use of alcohol or other drugs in order to seek help to quit using shall not be punished or disciplined for such past use. State and local extra-curricular activities eligibility rules may apply further conditions related to the admission of drug or alcohol use.

Enforcement/Discipline

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or sale of alcohol and prohibited 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, such as student lockers, 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)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[04.16.080](#) *Sales or consumption at school events*

[14.20.680](#) *Required alcohol and drug related disabilities training*

[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 of 1965, [20 U.S.C. §§ 7116, 7163](#),
as amended by the [Every Student Succeeds of 2015](#) ~~No Child Left Behind~~
Act of 2001 ([P.L. 107-110](#).)*

~~*Revised: November 17, 2015*~~

Adopted: April 28, 2004

Revised: November 17, 2015, (Date Revised)

Northwest Arctic Borough School District