

The abuse of alcohol and other substances is a health problem in the communities of New York State. Therefore, the Board of Education requires that the District provide age- appropriate developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs for students in all grade levels.

The District will cooperate with parents, interested community organizations, and local and state alcohol and substance abuse prevention agencies and law enforcement agencies in efforts to educate students about the effects of the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on their health, and on the legal implications of drug abuse.

The emphasis of the District's program should be on abuse prevention through education. Those elements of the District's Philosophy and Goals Statement which discuss the building of a positive self-image and a sense of personal worth will be given particular attention in a continuing District effort to provide up-to-date curricula for alcohol and substance use and abuse. The District will comply with all mandates of the Education Law regarding instruction in health education and drug education.

Alcohol, tobacco, or intoxicant drugs may not be used on school property or at school-sponsored events except prescription drugs which may be authorized by a physician. Smoking is not permitted in any location on grounds or in buildings in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District. Enforcement of this prohibition of alcohol, tobacco, and non-prescription drug use is primarily the responsibility of the building principal, but all staff members are expected to cooperate in enforcement.

Possession or use of alcohol, marijuana, or illegal intoxicant drugs such as cocaine, LSD, amphetamines, heroin, etc., in school or at school affairs may be punished by severe legal penalties. Building principals will exercise judgment regarding school punishment for students and whether or not circumstances require the involvement of law enforcement agencies. Repeaters, in any circumstance, risk permanent expulsion from school and referral to police authorities. Employees using or possessing alcohol or illegal drugs in school buildings will be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for appropriate action. Sanctions, up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, will be imposed on students and employees who use or possess alcohol or illegal drugs in school buildings, or on the grounds, or at school-related activities. All due process procedures established by law must be carefully followed with all persons suspected of alcohol or drug use or possession. Referral to appropriate agencies, with consent, for counseling and treatment is encouraged.

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