
SUBJECT: ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES (SCHOOL RELATED STAFF & STUDENTS)

The Board of Education of the Sharon Springs Central School District is committed to the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, vaping and other substance use/abuse. This policy describes the philosophy of the District and the program elements the District will use to promote healthy life styles for its students and staff and to inhibit the use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco, vaping (refer to District policies on smoking, tobacco, and vaping products: Policy #7.13 – Clean Indoor Act, 6.7 Smoking, and 10.6 Smoking).

No persons may use, possess, sell or distribute alcohol or other substances, nor may use or possess drug paraphernalia, on school grounds or at school-sponsored events, except drugs as prescribed by a physician. 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, inhalants, marijuana, vaping products, cocaine, LSD, POP, amphetamines, heroin, anabolic steroids, look-alikes, 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 illicit use of alcohol or other substances.

Philosophy

The District 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:

- a) Alcohol, tobacco, vaping and other substance use/abuse are preventable and treatable.
- b) Alcohol and other substance use/abuse inhibit the District from carrying out its central mission of educating students.
- c) While the District can and must assume a leadership role in alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and other substance use/abuse prevention, this goal will be accomplished only through coordinated, collaborative efforts with parents, students, staff, and the community as a whole.

Primary Prevention

The intent of primary prevention programming is to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and other substance use by students.

The components of this programming shall include:

- a) A sequential K - 12 prevention curriculum that provides for:
 - 1. Accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and other substances, including the physical, psychological, and social consequences of their use/abuse.
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. Helping students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol and other substances and to promote healthy life styles.
 - 4. Helping students identify personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse and the steps needed for risk reduction.
 - 5. Helping students develop a positive self-concept.
 - 6. Helping students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce stress through non-chemical means.
- b) Training school staff and providing awareness for parents and guardians to use the information and skills necessary to reinforce the components of this policy in the home, school, and community.
- c) Promoting community education about the issues of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and other substance use/abuse as a basis for providing a consistent message to District youth.
- d) Positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extracurricular 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 Kindergarten through 12th grade students at high risk for such use/abuse. The components of such programming shall include:

- a) Providing alcohol and other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services for students.
- b) Developing a referral process between school district and community providers.
- c) Identifying and referring students to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substances requires counseling and/or treatment.
- d) Providing services to students in or returning from treatment to assure that the school environment supports the process of recovery initiated in the treatment program.
- e) Providing referrals for individual, group, and family counseling targeted at students at high risk for alcohol and/or other substance use/abuse.
- f) Educating parents on when and how to access the District's intervention services.
- g) Confidentiality.

Employee Assistance Program

The Board of Education recognizes that the problems of alcohol and other substance use/abuse are not limited to the student population but affect every segment of society. District staff will be informed as to the services they can receive through the Employee Assistance Program and encouraged to seek such help voluntarily.

The District recognizes that it has no right to intervene unless employees' personal problems adversely affect their job performance. When unsatisfactory performance does occur, the District's supervisory personnel will encourage employees to manage and move toward a resolution of their problems on their own or with the help of District personnel.

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 student Rights and Responsibilities. (Refer also to Policy #7.4 - Student Discipline or Student Handbook.) Similar disciplinary measures for District staff are addressed in Education law Sections 913, 1711(5) (e), 2508(5) and 3020-a.

Students who are disciplined for any of these infractions will be mandated to the intervention services established by this policy or, in the case of District staff, will be referred to their immediate supervisor. The Supervisor will be able to provide confidential access to referral listings.

Staff Development

The Board recognizes that if the administrative, instructional, and non-instructional staff are to be responsible for understanding, implementing and modeling this policy, they must be trained about the components of an effective alcohol and other substance prevention program. The Board shall have the responsibility to provide ongoing staff training, including the following:

- a) For all staff:
 - 1. An understanding of why individuals use and abuse alcohol and other substances;
 - 2. Their role in implementing this policy, including how to identify students who exhibit high risk behaviors or who are using/abusing alcohol and other substances, and how to refer these students to the appropriate services established by this policy;
 - 3. Awareness of personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse so that they may identify personal use/abuse problems and seek assistance;

4. Awareness of the special needs of students returning from treatment.
- b) Additionally for teachers: The knowledge and skills necessary to implement the District's K-12 alcohol and other substance prevention curriculum.
 - c) For intervention staff: Appropriate staff training for those identified to carry out the intervention function to assure that their assessment of individual, group, and family counseling and referral skills support the needs of high-risk, using, and abusing youth.
 - d) For prevention staff: Appropriate staff training to assure that they have the knowledge and skills to support the application of prevention concepts through programming targeted at the schools, home, and community.

Implementation, Dissemination, and Monitoring

The Board of Education charges the Superintendent to collaborate with District staff, parents, students, community members, organizations and agencies, including alcohol and other substance abuse services providers, in developing the specific programs and strategies necessary to implement this policy.

Upon adoption, copies of this policy will be distributed to all District, staff, students, and parents annually and will be available to the community, through its organizations.

The Superintendent is responsible for providing the Board with an annual review of this policy, the programs and strategies implementing it, and his or her recommendations for revisions in the policy.

Education Law Sections 913
1711(5) (e), and 3020-a
Civil Service Law Section 75
Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.
Amendment of 1989
(Public Law 101-226
NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7320