

SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE POLICY

The Town of Webb Union Free School District is committed to the prevention of alcohol and other substances use/abuse. This policy describes the philosophy and the program elements the district will use to promote healthy lifestyles for its students and staff to discourage the use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other substances.

No person may use, possess, sell or distribute alcohol or other substances, nor may use or possess drug paraphernalia, on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or in transit between classes and other school program or activity areas including, but not limited to, the Technology Building and athletic fields. Possession and/or use of medications as prescribed by a physician and as governed by school policy procedure and practice is excepted. 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, methamphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alikes, synthetics 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 district sponsored events: any person exhibiting behavior, conduct or personal or physical characteristics indicative of having used or consumed alcohol or other substances.

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

1. Alcohol and other substance use/abuse is preventable and treatable.
2. Alcohol and other substance use/abuse inhibits the district and its staff from carrying out their central mission of educating students.
3. The behavior of the Board of Education, the administration, and all district staff should model the behavior asked of students.
4. While the district 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 staff, parents, students, and the community as a whole.

A. PREVENTION CURRICULUM

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

1. A sequential K-12 prevention curriculum will be in place in the Town of Webb Union Free School District. The curriculum shall provide for:
 - 1.1 Accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol, tobacco, and other substances, including the physical, psychological, and social consequences of their use/abuse.

B. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Disciplinary measures for students found to have used or to be using, in possession of, selling, or distributing alcohol or other substances and for students possessing drug paraphernalia are outlined in the district's policies. Similar disciplinary measures of staff are addressed in Education Law and Civil Service Law Service Law and policy.

Students who are disciplined for any of these infractions will be mandated to the intervention services listed above or, in the case of district staff, will be referred to one of the programs or services included under Employee Assistance.

C. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Board recognizes that if the administrative, instructional and non-instructional support staff are to be responsible for understanding, implementing and modeling this policy, they must be trained. Staff training will be an ongoing process including the following:

1. For all staff:
 - 1.1 An understanding of "why" individuals use and abuse alcohol and other substances.
 - 1.2 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.
 - 1.3 Awareness of personal risk factors for alcohol and other substances use/abuse so that they may identify personal use/abuse problems and seek assistance, and
 - 1.4 Awareness of the special needs of students returning from treatment.
2. Additionally for teachers, the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the district's K-12 alcohol and other substance prevention curriculum.

Staff training may be provided by a variety of appropriate association and programs some of the district's own instruction staff members, and other agencies and individuals as approved by the Board.

D. IMPLEMENTATION, DISSEMINATION AND MONITORING

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

1. 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.
2. Helping students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol and other substances.
3. Helping students develop a positive self concept.
4. Helping students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce stress through non-chemical means.
5. Educating school staff, parents and guardians and the community to use the information and skills necessary to reinforce the components of this policy in the home, school and community.
6. Positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as service projects, recreational and extra-curricular activities.

E. INTERVENTION AND AFTERCARE

The intent of intervention programming is to eliminate any existing use/abuse of alcohol and other substances, and to identify and provide supportive services Kindergarten through 12th grade students at high risk for such use/abuse. This includes:

1. Providing counseling services for students.
2. Identifying and referring students and families to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substances requires treatment.
3. Providing services to students in or returning from treatment to assume that the school environment supports the treatment program.
4. Educating parents on when and how to access intervention services.
5. Confidentiality.

F. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The district 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 on at least an annual basis through staff handbooks about the services they may receive from agencies such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Credo Foundation, Rose Hill Adolescent Chemical Dependency Program, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, the Alcoholism Center of Watertown and The Oneida County BOCES Component School District Employees Assistance Program.

The district recognizes that it does not have the right to intervene unless employees' personal problems adversely affect their job performances. When unsatisfactory performance does occur, the district supervisory personnel will encourage employees to manage and move toward a resolution of their problems on their own or with the help of area agencies.

Upon adoption, copies of this policy will be distributed to and reviewed with all district staff and students annually and will be disseminated 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/her recommendations for revision of the policy.

APPROVED: December 17, 1991

REVISED: March 18, 1997
 September 4, 2001
 December 7, 2010
 October 2, 2012
 May 2, 2017