

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

The Milford Public Schools, in accordance with Mass General Laws (c.71, s.96) and with recommendations and guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has developed and will implement a policy regarding substance use prevention and education for our students. The Milford Public Schools will notify parents and guardians of all students in our district of the policy regarding substance use prevention and will post the policy on the schools' website.

Goals

Implementation of an evidenced-based substance abuse curriculum for grades Pre K -12 that teaches self management, social, legal, health consequences and refusal skills that will empower students to make healthy choices and avoid alcohol and substance use.

Provide parents, guardians and community members ongoing educational opportunities and resources to prevent substance use.

Leadership

Leadership at all levels will play a critical role in developing and implementing the substance use prevention and education policy. This is accomplished by utilizing a team approach involving school administrators, school committee, educators, nurses, counselors, resource officers, athletic director and coaches, students, families and outside community agencies. The MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS Wellness Advisory Committee, comprised of school and community leaders, will play a key role in implementing and overseeing these programs.

Professional Development

All Milford Public Schools staff will be provided training opportunities to ensure they are aware of policies and procedures for alcohol and substance use prevention, education and intervention.

Access to Resources and Services

School counseling personnel, nursing services and contracted community agencies will work closely in identifying and referring students with substance abuse issues. Each school in the MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS district has an identified team of social-emotional support staff available for students in need of assessment, counseling and referral. Community based providers are available for referral and intervention as needed.

Academic and Non-Academic Strategies

In accordance with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Frameworks the MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS provide developmentally appropriate, evidenced based alcohol, tobacco and drug education and prevention programs in grades 6 -12.

Through collaboration with the Athletic and Nursing Departments, all student athletes, parents and coaches will attend a mandatory program on opiate misuse among athletes prior to each sport's season. They will also be provided with informational handouts provided by the MIAA - Substance Abuse Prevention Facts for Teens and Parents.

The Milford Public Schools presently employs a part time Wellness Nurse who is responsible for various health and wellness initiatives dealing with behavioral health and substance abuse issues.

Students in grades 8 and 10 will participate in state mandated SBIRT (Student Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment). This verbal screening tool will be used to help keep all students healthy and provide appropriate prevention, intervention and referral for possible substance abuse by a trained screener.

Policies and Protocols

The Milford Public Schools has policies in place for: voluntary admission of drug or alcohol problem, appearing under the influence, distribution or possession of drugs and prohibiting substance or tobacco use, on school property or at any school sponsored or school related activity, function or program whether on or off school property. Any student charged with a violation of these policies may be expelled or suspended in accordance with the district's Discipline Code(File JK). School staff discusses these policies annually with students and policies are posted on the district's web site and in the MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS Student Handbook which requires parents' signature to ensure they have received this handbook annually.

Narcan Administration and SBIRT Screening Protocols have been developed and approved by the Milford School Committee.

Collaboration with Families

The Milford Public Schools believes that families are essential partners in our efforts to prevent substance abuse. Our district is committed to providing ongoing informational and educational parent programming throughout our district.

Adoption Date: 12/1/16