



Substance Use Prevention and Abuse Education

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 96, it is the policy of the Marlborough Public Schools will maintain to provide age-appropriate, developmentally-based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs to students. The District shall notify the parents or guardians of all attending students of this policy and shall post the policy on the school website. This policy, and any standards and rules enforcing the policy, shall be prescribed by the School Committee in conjunction with the Superintendent. Additionally, this policy shall be filed with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in the manner prescribed by DESE.

The drug and alcohol education prevention program shall address the legal, social, and health consequences of alcohol and drug use, including opioids. It shall include special instruction as to the effects upon the human system, and the emotional, psychological and social dangers of such use with emphasis on nonuse by school age children and the illegal aspects of such use. The program shall also include information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol.

Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

In addition to the District's drug and alcohol prevention program, all students participating in an applicable extracurricular activity shall, prior to the commencement of their athletic season(s), be provided with educational materials regarding the dangers of opiate use and misuse. These educational materials shall be provided to those persons participating in the annual head injury safety program required under M.G.L. c.111, § 222.

Verbal Screening for Substance Abuse Disorders

As part of its drug and alcohol education and prevention program, and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 97, the Marlborough Public Schools may, subject to appropriation, utilize a verbal screening tool, approved by DESE and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), to screen pupils for substance abuse disorders. Screenings will occur on an annual basis and occur at two (2) different grade levels as recommended by DESE and DPH.

Parents or guardians of a pupil to be screened shall be notified in writing prior to the scheduled screening. A pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian may opt out of the screening by written notification at any time prior to or during the screening. The District will comply with DESE's regulations relative to consent.

De-identified screening results shall be reported to DPH, not later than ninety (90) days after completion of screening. Any statement, response or disclosure made by the pupil during the verbal screening shall be considered confidential information and shall not be disclosed to any other person without prior written consent of the pupil, parent or guardian, except in the cases of immediate medical emergency or a disclosure is otherwise required by state law. Such consent shall be documented on a DPH approved form and shall not be subject to discovery or subpoena in any civil, criminal, legislative or administrative proceeding. No record of any statement, response or disclosure shall be made in any form that includes information identifying the pupil.

APPROVED: 8/30/16

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