



Lawrence Public Schools

Policy of the School Committee

Section A: FOUNDATIONS AND BASIC COMMITMENTS

ADB

Subject: DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

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POLICY STATEMENT

The Lawrence Public School district is committed to providing a drug and alcohol free learning environment and workplace. Drug and/or alcohol use at school or in connection with school-sponsored activities on or off school grounds threaten the health and safety of our students and our employees and adversely affect the educational mission of the school district. The use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol are harmful to an individual's health and well-being in addition to being illegal.

The Lawrence Public Schools recognize that the use of alcohol and drugs and the problems associated with it are becoming increasingly common place in our society and among youth. The Lawrence Public Schools also recognize that the use of alcohol and drugs may also lead to problems in daily living. When students or staff members are identified as using any of these substances, prompt and appropriate intervention steps will be taken to assist these individuals to address the issues of alcohol and drug use. The Lawrence Public Schools recognize that students need education, assistance and support for their own or someone else's substance use or substance related problems and that many will require support to remain alcohol or drug-free. The school system is committed to providing comprehensive PK-12 prevention education to all students and specialized intervention to any students displaying signs of harmful involvement with alcohol and drugs. The Lawrence Public Schools also recognize that a person's use of alcohol and drugs can lead to the illness of chemical dependency. Recovery is possible if such dependency is identified early and treated appropriately. The Lawrence Public Schools regard alcoholism, drug addiction and dependency as it does any other chronic illness. Our primary purpose is to eradicate any moral judgment or blame that would only continue to stigmatize those with such problems and make their recovery difficult or impossible. The Lawrence Public School believes that it is in the best interest of the community for it to take steps to promote, enhance and maintain a substance free school system and student body and that, along with parents/guardians and other segments of the community, it has a role to play in helping students to remain substance free.

For these reasons, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of illicit drugs, alcohol or other controlled substances in the workplace, on school premises or as part of any school-sponsored activities is strictly prohibited. These standards of conduct are equally applicable to students and employees.

CROSS REF: JICHA, JICHB
Uniform Discipline Code

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:37H

REC'D: NESDEC

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