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Student Alcohol and Substance Abuse

It is the philosophy of the Board that all Eastern Suffolk BOCES facilities should be drug and alcohol free. "Drug and alcohol free" means free of alcohol, illegal substances, and any controlled substance detrimental to the health and welfare of the members of our ESBOCES community.

"Controlled substances" includes all drugs which are banned or controlled under Federal or State law, including those for which a physician's prescription is required, as well as any other chemical substance which is deliberately ingested to produce psychological or physiological effects, other than accepted foods or beverages. Medically authorized prescription drugs for use as prescribed are not prohibited by this policy.

"Illegal Substances" includes, but is not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."

The Board is committed to supporting the prevention, treatment, and elimination of the use of the above-mentioned substances on ESBOCES property or during ESBOCES-sponsored events.

Therefore, no person may use, possess, sell, distribute or manufacture alcohol, controlled substances, or illegal substances, nor may they use or possess drug paraphernalia on ESBOCES grounds or at ESBOCES-sponsored events. Drugs, as prescribed by a physician and used in accordance with a prescription, are exempt. The inappropriate use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs is also prohibited.

Additionally, any person whose behavior reflects consumption of alcohol, inappropriate use of controlled substances, or illegal substances is prohibited from entering ESBOCES property or attending ESBOCES-sponsored events.

The Board will use the following principles as guides for the development of its substance use/abuse prevention efforts and for any disciplinary measures related to the use of alcohol and illegal substances and the inappropriate use of controlled substances:

1. Alcohol, illegal substance, and controlled substance use/abuse is preventable and treatable;
2. Alcohol, illegal substance, and controlled substance use/abuse adversely affects student health and inhibits ESBOCES from carrying out its mission;
3. The behavior of the Board, the administration, and all ESBOCES employees should model the behavior asked of students;

4. While the Board can and must assume a leadership role in alcohol, illegal substance, and controlled substance use/abuse prevention, this goal will be accomplished only through coordinated, collaborative efforts with school districts, parents, students, employees, and the community as a whole.

Board Goal

The Board is committed to the prevention of use/abuse of alcohol, illegal substances, and controlled substances. ESBOCES is dedicated to providing a safe environment conducive to learning. Chemical use/abuse interferes with instruction, undermines the respect that must characterize learning, and threatens the safety and wellbeing of both the user/abuser and non-user. Our primary purpose is to educate our students using accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances, and inappropriate use of controlled substances, including the physical, psychological, and social consequences of their use/abuse. Our goal is to help students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol, illegal substances, and the inappropriate use of controlled substances detrimental to their health by helping them develop a positive self-concept and by promoting the development of healthy lifestyles. To accomplish this goal, full-time students will be provided with a comprehensive prevention curriculum.

Parent Education

The Board believes that it is essential that the parents/guardians of ESBOCES students are actively involved in understanding and enforcing this policy. Through the PTA, parenting workshops, and distribution of information, all parents/guardians will be provided with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to reinforce the components of this policy in their homes and in the community.

Involvement

In order to provide a consistent message to our youth, ESBOCES will enlist the services of the local community, agencies, organizations, and other groups to provide a collaborative effort in setting a standard regarding prevention. It is essential that parents, staff, and community provide a positive role model for our youth to reflect the rewards of a healthy, substance-free lifestyle.

Student Assistance Program/Student Support

The Board believes that it must provide a comprehensive intervention program. To this end, the Board established a Student Assistance Program in 1988. The purpose of this program is to eliminate any existing use or abuse of alcohol, illegal substances, and controlled substances and prevent any further use or abuse. Thus, the Board must identify substance abuse and those who are at high risk for such use or abuse. Support services can be offered to any student or student's family member who has been so identified.

The Student Assistance Program provides short-term counseling within the ESBOCES setting to both parents/guardians and students regarding substance abuse. Support services are offered to students who have been identified as using substances, those who are at risk to be potential users, and those who are returning to ESBOCES from treatment facilities. These

services are also extended to the families of our students. When there is concern of possible substance abuse, a student will be referred to the student assistance counselor.

Students considered at risk who may need extra support to avoid further problems may fall into some of the following categories:

1. children who are physically or emotionally abused or neglected;
2. children who are sexually abused;
3. children who are pregnant; or
4. children who are homeless.

The Student Assistance Program maintains contact with community agencies in order to coordinate appropriate referrals for students and families when substance abuse has been identified. Students, parents, and employees may contact the student assistance counselor directly with concerns they may have in this area. All contact between the student assistance counselor and students and families is confidential.

It is the responsibility of every employee to report any information or observations regarding the suspected use, possession, or trafficking of alcohol or drugs. Employees must make these reports to the building principal or designee. Employees making such reports in good faith are immune from any civil liability.

Standards of Conduct for Students in a Drug-and-Alcohol-Free Environment

The Board is committed to making every effort to have a drug-and-alcohol-free environment. In furtherance of this commitment, the Board has adopted, in conjunction with its drug-free environment policy, “standards of conduct” for students as follows:

1. the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession and/or use of alcohol or illegal substances or the inappropriate use of controlled substances by students on ESBOCES property is prohibited;
2. students whose behavior indicates they have used alcohol or an illegal substance or inappropriately used a controlled substance before class will not be permitted to attend class;
3. students requesting aid and guidance in alcohol and drug abuse resolution will be dealt with on a confidential basis; and
4. compliance with the Code of Conduct is mandatory.

Standards of Intervention for Students

If a student is suspected of alcohol or drug possession or if a student appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the following steps will be taken:

1. the student will not be left alone;

2. the building principal or designee will be notified;
3. if consumption is suspected, the building nurse will see the student to determine if further medical intervention is needed;
4. if possession of an illegal substance is found, the police will be notified by the principal;
5. the parents or legal guardians will be notified;
6. the building principal will report the information regarding the student to the Program Director; and
7. the student will be referred to a counselor for the purpose of evaluating the nature of the student's problem and to make recommendations for appropriate intervention.

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Readopted: 1/25/12