

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR SUBSTANCE POSSESSION OR USE BY STUDENTS

The Mansfield School Committee prohibits students' use, possession, distribution, or selling of controlled substances, tobacco products (including but not limited to chewing tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, pipes, electronic, 'vapor', or other substitute forms of cigarettes and nicotine products), alcoholic beverages, or non-prescribed mind altering substances, as well as prescription medication misuse in school, on school grounds, in transportation vehicles used for school-sponsored events, or at any school functions or activities, even though this use does not take place on school grounds. Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate action by school officials and may be referred to legal authorities. Penalties for violating this policy, as they affect athletic participation as mandated by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), may be lengthier than penalties imposed by the school.

The school district will utilize, in accordance with law, a verbal screening tool approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to screen students for substance abuse disorders. Trained staff will administer the screening tool on an annual basis to two different grade levels as recommended by DESE and the Department of Public Health.

Parents/guardians will be notified prior to the opening of school each year. Parents/guardians or will have the right to opt out of the screening by written notice prior to or during the screening. Student participation will be voluntary at the time of screening; students may choose not to answer any or all of the screening questions.

All statements made by a student during a screening are confidential and will not be disclosed unless there is risk of harm to the student and others or in accordance with the law. De-identified results will be reported to the Department of Public Health within 90 days of completion of the screening process of eligible grades.

Procedures for implementing this policy are contained in the appropriate student handbooks and will be enforced by the school principal and their designee. School personnel who suspect a student is in possession of or using controlled substances, alcohol, or tobacco products in violation of this policy must immediately notify the school administration.

Notice

This policy will be posted on the district's website and notice will be provided to all students and parents of this policy in accordance with state law. Additionally, the District will file a copy of this policy with DESE in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE.

Revised: March 27, 2018

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SOURCE: MASC

Hopkinton Public Schools

LEGAL REFS.:

M.G.L.71:2A; 71:37H; 71:96; 272:40A

Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993

Mansfield Board of Health Tobacco Regulations Affecting Smoking and the Sale, Vending, and Distribution of Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Products, June 2015

CROSS REFS.:

GBEC, Drug Free Workplace Policy

IHAMA, Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs