

Substance Use Prevention and Education Policy
February 8, 2017
(Draft: Pending BOT Approval)

Purpose:

Massachusetts General Laws c. 71, s.96 requires each public school:

- To have policies regarding substance abuse prevention and the education of its students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
- To notify students' parents or guardians about the related policies and procedures, professional development support of staff; and
- To post the policies on the school district website

And requires schools to file these policies with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

In accordance with state and federal law and this policy, Prospect Hill Academy Charter School shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate, evidence based alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention education programs in grades 5-12.

The alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention program shall address the legal, social and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco and drug use, with emphasis on non-use by school age children. The program shall also include information about effective techniques and skill development for delaying and abstaining from using, as well as skills for addressing peer pressure to use alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

The objectives of this program, as stated below, are rooted in the understanding that prevention requires education and that the most important aspects of the policies and guidelines of Prospect Hill Academy should be the education of children and youth in healthy decision making:

- To prevent, delay and/or reduce alcohol, tobacco and drug use among children and youth at PHA.
- To increase students' understanding of the legal, social and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco and drug use.
- To teach students self-management skills, social skills, negotiation skills and refusal skills that will help them to make healthy decisions and avoid alcohol, tobacco and drug use.

The curriculum, instructional materials and outcomes used in this program shall be recommended by the Head of School and/or her designee.

This policy shall be posted on the PHA website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents/guardians, in accordance with state law. Additionally, PHA shall file a copy of this policy with DESE in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE.

SOURCE: MACS March, 2016
LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:1, 71:96
 M.G.L. 71:2A; 71:96; 272:40A

