

The School Committee recognizes that the use or consumption by students of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs is both illegal and detrimental to the child. The School Committee is therefore dedicated to actions that will prevent, delay, and/or reduce alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among children and youth.

Accordingly, the School Committee directs the Superintendent to provide developmentally appropriate, evidence-based programs in grades 3-12 targeting the prevention of drug abuse by students. The desire for this program is rooted in the Committee's belief that prevention requires that students have both the knowledge and the peer-interaction skills that support healthy decision-making.

The program shall address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug use by school-age children. The program shall depict the consequences of using recreational drugs, both short-term and long-term, with any physical consequences shown in scientifically accurate terms. The program also shall include effective techniques for abstaining from or delaying drug use, and shall provide opportunities for students to develop skills for dealing with peer pressure to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

The drugs to be covered by the program shall include, but need not be limited to, tobacco products (including vapor/E-cigarettes), marijuana, steroids, any controlled substance (including prescription drugs), and any other substances which are likely candidates for abuse.

The administration shall monitor metrics that indicate the effectiveness of the programs implemented, and shall document at least annually the metrics which were assessed, and possible implications for WPS Drug Abuse Prevention programming. Data may include metrics such as survey data and police records to assess trends and identify possible areas for program improvement.

References

MGL 71:2A; 71:96; 272:40A

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