

## INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

### **TEACHING AND INTERVENTION: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUGS**

The North Reading Public School District is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment. The District views families as essential partners in its effort to prevent substance abuse.

In accordance with state and federal law, the North Reading Public Schools shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate, culturally competent, evidence-based alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention education programs in grades K-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 nonuse by school-age children. The program also shall 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 Committee's belief that prevention requires education, and that the most important aspect of the policies and guidelines of the District should be the education of children and youth on healthy decision-making:

- To prevent, delay, and/or reduce alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.
- 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 Superintendent and approved by the School Committee.

In addition, the North Reading Public Schools will implement intervention strategies, which may include staff training and/or parent/guardian education, with a goal of identifying and meeting the needs of students most at risk, while maintaining their confidentiality. The North Reading Public Schools will establish and make available to students, families, and staff, a resource list of drug/alcohol prevention and treatment services available through community agencies and organizations. Also, as part of this intervention program, the District will implement effective reintegration procedures to assist students who have been absent and/or in recovery.

This policy shall be posted on the District's website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents in accordance with state law. Additionally, the District shall file a copy of this policy with DESE in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE. This policy will be subject to periodic review every three (3) years, or earlier, when appropriate.

Approved December 7, 1970

First Reading February 10, 1986

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