

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: COE-RA, COF-RA, IGO-RA, IGO-EA, IJA-RA, Section M

Combating Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to promote vigorous and concerted efforts to keep alcohol and other drugs, drug use, and drug sales and distribution out of schools and off school properties, thereby creating and maintaining an environment for teaching, learning, and working within Montgomery County Public Schools that is free of alcohol and other drugs.

In this policy "alcohol and other drugs" are intoxicants that are defined as alcohol or controlled substances not authorized by a physician's prescription.

This overall purpose or goal will be sought and achieved through a series of objectives which include:

1. The provision and enforcement of measures to:
 - a) Prevent the entry of alcohol and other drugs into schools or other MCPS facilities, properties, and vehicles
 - b) Provide for security measures in MCPS that will address the associated problems of weapons and violence or the threat of violence
 - c) Emphasize user accountability to reduce the demand for alcohol and other drugs
2. The provision of training for school staff members and parents in:
 - a) The identification of the circumstances which attend drug use/abuse and sale/distribution in schools
 - b) The identification of the impact of alcohol and other drug use/abuse on behavior and attitudes

- c) The necessity of and methods for coordinated school-community efforts to combat alcohol and other drug use/abuse
 - d) The promotion of shared responsibility for prevention and reduction of alcohol and other drug use/abuse
3. The provision of education for students, parents, and MCPS staff about:
- a) The school system's commitment to make schools free of alcohol and other drugs, to assist students who want help in overcoming problems related to alcohol and other drug use/abuse, and to pursue penalties for those who violate laws and school system rules
 - b) The dangers to the health of the student, family, school, and community due to alcohol and other drug use/abuse
 - c) The specific penalties for drug users/abusers and sellers/distributors of drugs that result from violating MCPS rules, as set forth in Administrative Regulation COF-RA: Intoxicants on MCPS Property
 - d) The fact that drug use/abuse and sale/distribution are serious violations of the law, bringing stiff penalties
4. The provision of education/prevention programs such as peer training to encourage students to help other students avoid involvement in alcohol and other drug use/abuse
5. The provision of increased student access to the personal assistance students may need to prevent or treat alcohol and other drug use/abuse through:
- a) Involvement of parents
 - b) The provision of alternative programs
 - c) The identification of and referral to, as appropriate, available treatment programs, in-school counseling services, student organizations, and other services and supports that may be available in the community and provided privately or by county and state agencies
6. Intensified cooperation with county and state agencies to address the problems associated with alcohol and other drug use/abuse

7. Participation in community-wide efforts to combat the use/abuse and sale/distribution of alcohol and other drugs
8. The provision of needed resources, from MCPS and other sources, to meet the range of needs to address the problem
9. The development, continuous review, refinement, and vigorous implementation of rules and regulations that are designed to:
 - a) Protect staff and student rights
 - b) Ensure that prompt action is taken to achieve the overall purpose of a school environment that is free of alcohol and other drugs
10. Keeping the public informed about the implementation of this policy

B. PROCESS AND CONTENT

All MCPS employees are expected to convey by their actions, deeds, and teachings that they do not in any way encourage or condone alcohol or other drug use/abuse. Staff members will abide by federal, state, and local laws, guidelines, and initiatives that are designed to create an environment for teaching, learning, and working that is free of alcohol and other drugs. Any illegal action relating to alcohol and other drug use/abuse by any school system employee continues to be grounds for immediate dismissal.

Consistent with their duties staff members will:

1. Enforce measures to:
 - a) Prevent the entry of alcohol and other drugs into schools or other MCPS facilities, properties, and vehicles
 - b) Provide for security measures in MCPS that will address the associated problems of weapons and violence or the threat of violence
 - c) Emphasize user accountability to reduce the demand for alcohol and other drugs

2. Provide training on a regular and continuing basis for MCPS staff members and parents in the:
 - a) Identification of the circumstances which surround drug use/abuse and sale/distribution in and around homes, communities, and schools
 - b) Identification of the impact of alcohol and other drug use/abuse on behavior and attitudes
 - c) Importance of and methods for coordinated school-community efforts to combat alcohol and other drug use/abuse
 - d) Promotion of shared responsibility for prevention and reduction of alcohol and other drug use/abuse
3. Provide a comprehensive education for students, beginning in the elementary grades, and appropriate information to staff and parents about:
 - a) The school system's commitment to make schools free of alcohol and other drugs, to assist students who want help in overcoming problems related to alcohol and other drug use/abuse, and to pursue penalties for those who violate laws and school system rules
 - b) The dangers to the health of the student, family, school, and community due to alcohol and other drug use/abuse
 - c) The specific penalties for drug users/abusers and sellers/distributors of drugs that result from violating MCPS rules, as set forth in Administrative Regulation COF-RA: Intoxicants on MCPS Property
 - d) The fact that drug use/abuse and sale/distribution are serious violations of the law, bringing stiff penalties
4. Encourage students to help other students avoid involvement in alcohol and other drug use/abuse
5. Promote increased student access to personal assistance that could help prevent or treat alcohol and other drug use/abuse through:
 - a) Involvement of parents

- b) Provision of alternative programs
 - c) Identification of and referral to, as appropriate, available treatment programs, in-school counseling services, student organizations, and other services and supports that might be provided privately in the community or by county and state agencies, including cooperation with law enforcement and the criminal justice system
6. Cooperate with county, state, and federal agencies to address the problems associated with alcohol and other drug use/abuse, including prevention, education, treatment, and law enforcement
 7. Participate in community-wide efforts to combat the use/abuse and sale/distribution of alcohol and other drugs
 8. Seek appropriate resources, from MCPS and other sources, to meet the range of needs to address the problem
 9. Implement rules and regulations that are designed to:
 - a) Protect staff and student rights
 - b) Ensure that prompt action is taken to achieve the overall purpose of a school environment that is free of alcohol and other drugs
 10. Publish an annual report to the Board and the public on progress made toward the achievement of the goals and objectives of this policy

C. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed every three years in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Policy History: Adopted by Resolution No. 370-90, June 12, 1990; amended by Resolution No. 704-90, November 13, 1990.

Note previous policy history: Adopted by Resolution No. 332-70, June 9, 1970; amended by Resolution No. 294-73, April 30, 1973; reaffirmed by Resolution No. 652-83, July 25, 1983; amended by Resolution No. 709-83, August 9, 1983; reformatted in accordance with Resolution No. 333-86, June 12, 1986, and Resolution No. 458-86, August 12, 1986; accepted by Resolution No. 517-86, September 22, 1986; rescinded by Resolution No. 370-90, June 12, 1990.