

# **SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION POLICY**

## **Introduction**

The Monson Public Schools, in accordance with Mass General Laws (c.71, s.96) and with recommendations and guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education hereby presents its policy regarding substance use prevention and education for our students. The Monson Public Schools will notify parents and guardians of all students in our district of the policy regarding substance use prevention through posting the policy on the district website to encourage communication among students, parents/guardians, teachers and administrators.

## **Leadership**

Leadership at all levels plays a critical role in developing and implementing the substance use prevention and education policy by utilizing a team approach involving school administrators, School Committee, educators, nurses, counselors, resource officer, and athletic director. The Monson Public Schools Wellness Advisory Committee will play a key role in implementing, overseeing and annually reviewing these programs.

## **Professional Development**

All Monson Public Schools staff will be provided training to ensure they are aware of policies and procedures for alcohol and substance use prevention, education and intervention, and recognize their own role in administering policies and procedures.

## **Access to Resources and Services**

School counseling personnel, nursing services and contracted community agencies will work closely in identifying and referring students with substance abuse issues. Each school in the Monson Public Schools district has an identified team of social-emotional support staff available for students in need of assessment, counseling and referral. Community based providers are available for referral and intervention as needed.

## **Academic and Non-Academic Strategies**

In accordance with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Frameworks, the Monson Public Schools provide developmentally appropriate, evidence-based alcohol, tobacco and drug education and prevention programs in grades 5-12, as part of the core curriculum.

Through collaboration with the Athletic and Nursing Departments, all student athletes, parents and coaches will attend a mandatory program on opiate misuse among athletes prior to each sport's season. They will also be provided with informational handouts provided by the MIAA-Substance Abuse Prevention Facts for Teens and Parents.

Students in grades 8 and 10 will participate in state mandated SBIRT (Student Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment). If a student is identified to be at-risk for substance abuse, a counselor will provide supportive counseling and referral as needed.

### **Policies and Protocols**

The Monson Public Schools has policies in place for Smoking on School Premises, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco, Tobacco Use, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, Student Conduct and Discipline.

Any student charged with a violation of these policies may be expelled or suspended in accordance with the district's handbook. School staff discusses these policies annually with students and policies are posted on the district's website and in the Monson Public Schools Student Handbook which requires parents' signatures to ensure they have received this handbook annually.

Narcan Administration and SBIRT Screening Protocols have been developed.

### **Collaboration with Families**

The Monson Public Schools believes that families are essential partners in our efforts to prevent substance abuse. Our district is committed to providing ongoing informational and educational parent programming throughout our district. Any questions can be directed to the Superintendent.

Adoption Date:

***Monson Public Schools***

***Legal Reference:***

***M.G.L. (Chapter 71, Section 96)***

***Policies Referenced:***

***Monson Public Schools Handbook***

***ADC, GBEC, IHAMB, JICG, JICH, JIH***