



Brooke Charter Schools Substance Use Prevention Policy

Policy Goals

1. Educate students about the dangers of substance use and abuse
2. Deter students from engaging in substance use in and outside of school
3. Provide appropriate school response and support when substance use and/or abuse occurs among Brooke Charter Schools students

Health and Substance Use Education

Brooke Charter Schools (BCS) has in place a health education and substance use prevention curriculum in grades 5-9 that includes a focus on ensuring that students are educated about the health dangers and risks related to substance use (9th grade is the highest currently enrolled grade at BCS). The curriculum draws materials from a variety of sources, including multiple sources listed on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (http://nrepp.samhsa.gov/01_landing.aspx).

Professional Services and Referrals

The Dean of Students at each BCS campus shall be the designated point person for (a) staff referrals of students who are identified as demonstrating early warning signs, and (b) support for those students.

Advisors in the high school and classroom teachers in grades 5-8 are the critical front-line staff and liaisons between students, parents, and administrators across BCS campuses. Middle school teachers and high school advisors each have total student loads of fewer than 30 students and are charged with knowing and supporting students and families. As the primary instructors of the health and substance abuse prevention curriculum, middle school teachers and high school advisors are in the best position to recognize early warning signs of substance use and/or abuse among their students and advisees.

Professional Development for Staff

All front-line staff (teachers and advisors in grades 5-9) will engage in professional development designed to help them effectively implement the health and substance use prevention curriculum at each grade level. That professional development will include a focus on recognizing early warning signs of substance use in teens, and the process for making referrals on that basis to the school's Dean of Students.

Substance Use Prohibition

A student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy or sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product, including vapor/E-cigarettes; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. BCS prohibits the use or consumption by students of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs on school property or at any school function. Additionally, any student who is under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages prior to, or during, attendance at school or participation in a school-sponsored activity may be subject to disciplinary action.

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a controlled substance, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to removal from school for a period of time up to expulsion by the Principal.

Policy Communication and Revision

This Substance Use Prevention Policy will be posted on the Brooke Charter Schools website and in the Student and Family Handbook. The Brooke Charter Schools Wellness Committee will review the Policy at least every three years to ensure ongoing alignment and the incorporation of best practices. Families will have an opportunity to participate in the Policy review process through the Wellness Committee.

Students will be informed on an annual basis of the Substance Use Prevention Policy via the Student and Family Handbook. Students will be engaged in the ongoing effort to develop and improve the Policy, via their participation on the Brooke Charter Schools Wellness Committee, including participation in the review and revision process that takes place once every three years.

All BCS staff members will be informed of the Policy via the Employee Guidelines, which staff are required to acknowledge annually.

Intervention, Treatment, Re-Integration, and Confidentiality

In the event that a BCS student is identified with a problem related to substance use, substance abuse, or addiction, the Dean of Students will work with the student's family to identify options for intervention and/or treatment through an external provider (resources listed in the following section). Students who take an extended absence from BCS for treatment for substance abuse or addiction will under no circumstances forfeit their seat at BCS as a result of that absence, and school staff will make every effort to support the student and his/her family to successfully reintegrate that student at BCS upon his/her return, by providing supplementary academic and social/emotional supports. In accordance with state and federal law, school staff will maintain strict confidentiality with individual student information related to substance use.

Resources Available to Brooke Charter Schools Students, Families, and Employees

- **The Massachusetts Substance Abuse Helpline**, 1-800-327-5050, www.helpline-online.com
- **Alcoholics Anonymous & Narcotics Anonymous**, 617-426-9444, www.aaboston.org, www.na.org
- **Talking to Your Kids about Marijuana, Mass Public Health Blog**, <https://blog.mass.gov/publichealth/substance-abuse-prevention-treatment-and-recovery/talking-to-your-kids-about-marijuana/>
- **Alcohol Use and Your Kids - Mass Public Health**, <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/substance-abuse/7-ways-to-protect-teen-from-alcohol-drugs.pdf>
- **National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments**, <http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov>
- **DEA Substance Use Awareness**, <http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/>
- **Adolescent Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), Boston Children's Hospital**, 617-355-2727, www.childrenshospital.org
- **ALANON/ALATEEN - support group meetings available by town/community**, 1-888-425-2666, www.al-anon.org, www.ma-al-anon-alateen.org
- **SMART Recovery Family & Friends**, www.smartrecovery.org/resources/family.htm