

Hill View Montessori Charter Public School Policy

Name of Policy: **Education, Prevention and Intervention: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs Instructional Program**

First Read: December 8, 2016

Second Read: January 12, 2017

Board Vote: January 12, 2017 Approved: January 12, 2017

Education, Prevention and Intervention: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs

Hill View Montessori Charter Public School (HVM) is committed to maintaining a safe a supportive learning environment. Families are viewed as essential partners in an effort to prevent substance abuse.

An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education and Prevention was signed into law on March 14, 2016 as **Massachusetts Law (M.G.L. c.71, s.96)**. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, has provided guidance and recommendation to schools to develop and implement an effective substance use prevention and abuse education policy. In accordance with the state law, HVM shall provide age appropriate, developmentally appropriate, culturally competent, evidence based alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention education programs in grades 5 through 8.

The alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention program shall address the legal, social, and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, with emphasis on non use by school-age children. The program shall also include information about effective techniques and skill development for abstinence and delay 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 Trustees belief that prevention requires education, and that the most important aspect of the policies and guidelines of HVM 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 student's 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.

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The curriculum, instructional materials, and outcomes used in this program shall be recommended by the School Nurse, the Social Worker, the Education Program Director, and approved by the Executive Director.

In addition, HVM will implement the **Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment** utilizing the **Craft Screening Tool (FY17-01 SBIRT)** administered to 8th grade students. Intervention strategies, which will include Middle School staff training and parent/guardian notification of screening with a goal of identifying and meeting the needs of students most at risk, while maintaining their confidentiality. HVM will establish and make available to students, family, and staff, a resource list of drug/alcohol prevention and treatment services available through community agencies and organizations.

The policy shall be posted on HVM's website and notice shall be provided to all students in parents in accordance with state law, **Massachusetts Law (M.G.L. c.71, s.96)**. Additionally, a copy of this policy will be filed with DESE in accordance with the law in a manner requested by DESE. This policy will be subject to periodic review every three (3) years, or earlier when appropriate.