August 26, 2016

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you about the Massachusetts General Laws related to substance abuse. Chapter 71 of the General Laws was amended to include requirements for each public school to have a policy regarding substance use, prevention, and education of students about the dangers of substance abuse.

Pentucket has a comprehensive approach to wellness with features that are proactive and responsive. Proactively, Pentucket continues to emphasize the importance of accessing every student’s engagement in every subject area in ways that are personally meaningful. Our approach is aligned with the adage, it is better to prevent than to heal. We encourage every student to find his/her unique purpose and place in the world. When individuals fall short in finding high levels of meaning, they can be less resilient and fall victim to psychological complications and addictive behaviors.

Pentucket also offers a variety of supports and interventions for students at our schools. Our adjustment counselors and school nurses provide an added level of expertise for individuals as well as groups of students in classrooms. Pentucket’s wellness curriculum ultimately provides students, particularly in grades 11 and 12, with choices to explore specialty areas.

Policy JICH addresses the prohibition of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use by students. You can find Policy JICH posted on the District’s website.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG USE BY STUDENTS PROHIBITED – Policy JICH

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. The School Committee 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 or participation in a school-sponsored activity, will be barred from that activity and may be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy shall be posted on the district’s website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents of this policy 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.

SOURCE: MASC March 2016
LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L.71:2A; 71:96; 272:40A
CROSS REFS.: IHAMB, Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs
GBEC, Drug Free Workplace Policy

Policy IHAMB addresses three major objectives: preventing the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use among children and youth; increasing students understanding of the consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use; and teaching students healthy decision-making and self-management skills.
Each curriculum area, including wellness across grades PK – 12, will be under review during the 2016 – 2017 school year as part of the District’s ongoing commitment to high quality teaching and learning. You can find Policy IHAMB posted on the District’s website.

TEACHING ABOUT ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUGS – Policy IHAMB

In accordance with state and federal law, the District shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate, 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 among children and youth.
- 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.

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.

SOURCE: MASC March 2016
LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:1, 71:96
CROSS REFS: GBEC, Drug Free Workplace Policy
JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

Parent support is always appreciated. It would be very helpful for parents to speak with their child about the effects and consequences that alcohol, tobacco, and drugs can have on a person as well as building skills leading to healthy decision-making. Parents can also participate in the District’s Wellness meetings and events. The following calendar of events was planned by our wellness group and is being implemented for the upcoming school year. Specific dates and times are being scheduled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June, 8, 2016</th>
<th>Race To Nowhere</th>
<th>6:30 pm</th>
<th>Pentucket Regional High School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Most Likely To Succeed</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2016</td>
<td>Roots of Addiction: Causes and Correlations – Dr. Edward Khantzian</td>
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<td>January 2017</td>
<td>Signs &amp; Symptoms of Addiction for Parents and Educators - TBD</td>
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<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Local &amp; State Intervention Services and Legal Programs - TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>Student Exhibitions - Celebrating successful integration of academic knowledge, adaptive leadership skills, and high levels of personal meaning</td>
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</table>

Thank you for supporting Pentucket’s efforts to ensure the wellness of every student. Please speak directly with your school principal if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey J. Mulqueen, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools