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Overview

The use and/or abuse of all substances including alcohol and illegal drugs (including steroids and prescription opioids), as well as the inappropriate use and/or abuse of legal substances (inhalants, electric cigarettes, herbal supplements, prescription medications, dietary aids and over-the-counter medications) in school is both a violation of law and harmful to the educational purposes of our school.

It is the policy of Roxbury Prep that the school will respond to the use and/or abuse of substances including alcohol and illegal drugs (including steroids), as well as the inappropriate use and/or abuse of legal substances (inhalants, electric cigarettes, herbal supplements, prescription medications, dietary aids and over-the-counter medications) through education, medical/health assistance, and discipline.

Education

An education/medical/health approach will be the first step in an attempt to help students decide not to use and/or abuse substances and to assist students who are involved.

Every effort will be made by teachers and counselors to educate students and engage with families about substance use and/or abuse and to create an atmosphere of knowledge, confidence, and trust that will encourage young people to seek help in overcoming problems in substance abuse. Roxbury Prep's Health and Wellness Curriculum specifically addresses substance use and abuse.

Community Liaisons

The school will maintain liaisons with rehabilitation, treatment, judicial, law enforcement, and legislative agencies to help ensure that the total community capability is brought to bear on the elimination of substance abuse problems.

Policy

The use and/or abuse of any substance including alcohol and illegal drugs (including steroids and prescription opioids), as well as the inappropriate use and/or abuse of legal substances (inhalants, electric cigarettes, herbal supplements, prescription medications, dietary aids and over-the-counter medications) is strictly prohibited on school grounds. Any possession, use or sale of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, legal substances intended for misuse or alcoholic beverages on the school grounds, at school functions or on school buses is prohibited at all times.

Roxbury Prep's goal to have a "Drug Free School" can only be achieved if the administration has the authority it needs to carry out the Drug/Alcohol policy. Therefore, the administration follows the principle of "reasonable suspicion" not "probable cause." Scholars smelling of alcohol or marijuana, or behaving in a manner that would indicate possession or ingestion of drugs or alcohol, on school property and at school events, are subject to this policy, and disciplinary action could follow.

Procedures

The following steps will be taken in response to student use of substances:

1. If a student voluntarily confides a drug or alcohol problem to any staff member, staff will consult immediately with a school counselor, school nurse, or school leader, who will then consult the Dean of Students to develop recommendations. In such instances, the school will work with the student and family to address the drug or alcohol problem.
2. If a school administrator has reasonable grounds to suspect, through direct observation, that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, but no contraband is found, an assessment will be made. The student may be removed from class, and parental contact will occur immediately.
3. When a student is determined to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, but no contraband is found, the Dean of Students or designee will immediately notify parents and a conference will be held with the student and parents before the student returns to school. The student may be required to attend meetings of an approved alcohol or drug recovery program or other appropriate treatment. In addition, the student will be subject to disciplinary action.
4. If a student is found to be selling, distributing or in possession of a drug or alcohol, the Dean of Students or designee will notify parents and a conference will be held with the student and parents. The substance will be sealed and labeled with the date and time of confiscation and noted in the incident report. If it is a legal substance, it may be given to the parent or disposed of at the parent's request. If the substance is illegal, it will be turned over to appropriate authorities. The student may be required to attend an approved alcohol or drug recovery program or other appropriate treatment and will be subject to disciplinary action.

The intent of Roxbury Prep's Drug and Alcohol Policy is to be proactive so that individuals with problems can be readily identified and provided with appropriate services. In addition, Roxbury Prep upholds the law and sets high standards for student conduct and safety.

NOTE: Changes will be made to this policy during the 2016-17 school year based on recent legislation enacted in response to the Opiate epidemic our state and nation are facing. Updates will include the implementation of verbal substance use disorder screenings. The school will communicate any changes to the Alcohol and Use of Illegal Drugs Policy and Procedures.

Resources / Supports

If you are concerned about a Roxbury Prep scholar and the possible use of drugs or alcohol, we encourage you to contact School Leaders. In addition, here are some prevention tips provided by the [Bureau of Substance Abuse Services](#) within the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#).

In addition, here are some resources that families may find helpful:

- [Talking to Your Kids about Marijuana](#) – Mass Public Health Blog
- [Parent Power](#)- Mass.gov Health & Human Services
- [Alcohol Use and Your Kids](#) - Mass Public Health
- [Prevention Tips for your Middle School Aged Child](#) - Mass.gov Health & Human Services
- <http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov> - National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments
- <http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/> - DEA
- [Office of Adolescent Health](#) - U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
- [Adolescent Substance Abuse Program](#)- Boston Children's Hospital
- [Peer Pressure](#) - American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry