

SMEC POLICY ON TEACHING ABOUT ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUGS

In accordance with state and federal law, SMEC 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 curriculum implemented will be commensurate with the age and ability level of the students.

The objectives of this program, as stated below, are rooted in the 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.

This policy shall be posted on the Collaborative's website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents in accordance with state law. Additionally, SMEC shall file a copy of this policy with DESE in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE.

M.G.L. 71:1 ;71:96

SMEC Board Approval: September 2016