

UP Academy Substance Use Prevention Policy

In accordance with **Mass. General Laws chapter 71, section 96**, which states that “Each public school shall have a policy regarding substance use prevention and the education of its students about the dangers of substance abuse.”

I) Leadership

Maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment is important to UP Academy. Leadership at UP Academy is essential in developing and implementing effective substance use prevention and abuse education policies. In adopting or updating policies, the relevant charter school board of trustees committees (as applicable) will work in conjunction with UP Education network staff in developing clearly defined goals to prevent and address substance use and abuse among youth.

Comprehensive substance use prevention programs involve the use of multiple strategies that include education and training; social competency skill development; social norms with expectations for behavior; policies, procedures and protocols; and problem identification and referral services. UP Education Network staff and school leaders play a key role in implementing and overseeing these programs.

II) Professional Development

UP Academy will provide tiered training, so that all school staff know policies, procedures, and protocols for prevention, intervention, and follow-up in preventing and responding to substance use and abuse. Staff will be provided training on the early warning signs and behaviors that indicate a student may be experiencing substance use problems, and should be aware of building-based referral systems and other protocols to follow. Beginning the 2017-2018 school year, and subject to appropriation, UP Academy shall utilize a verbal screening tool to screen students annually, in at least two different grade levels, for substance use disorders. UP Academy will ensure qualified staff are identified and trained to do so.

Staff who are responsible for implementing substance use prevention curricula will receive specific training and professional development on implementing evidence-based programs and effective strategies for preventing substance use.

III) Access to Resources and Services

School staff and school counseling personnel will work in collaboration with substance use counseling professionals and mental health specialists to meet the needs of those students most at risk.

School counseling personnel will have access to information and strategies necessary to facilitate referrals to community services for the wide variety of mental health problems that students experience, including substance use. UP Academy will establish a resource list of services available through local agencies.

IV) Re-Entry

Follow-up is a crucial phase of a student's recovery after return from treatment for substance abuse. UP Academy school staff will devise an after-care program to review of the student's school program with

parents, guidance counselor and case manager, placements in an appropriate class schedule, and follow-up meetings.

V) Academic and Non-Academic Strategies

UP Academy school-based mental health professionals, will work directly with young people who are identified as being at risk. At least one adult in the school will be designated as the point of contact and support for students who are considered to be at risk.

VI) Disciplinary Procedures Relating to Drug/Alcohol Abuse

1. The UP Academy Code of Conduct prohibits the use of any substance on school grounds, and at school-sponsored or school-related events.
2. Per the Code of Conduct, a student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a controlled substance as defined in chapter ninety-four C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.
3. UP Academy shares these policies annually with students and families.

VII) Collaboration with Families

Families are essential partners in schools' efforts to prevent substance use. Parental input, particularly from parents of students with substance related-problems, helps identify and prioritize the needs of the school community.

UP Academy will work in collaboration with families/guardians in weaving together the resources for comprehensive, multifaceted approaches to preventing substance use and abuse.