





SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION POLICY

Argosy Collegiate Charter School adheres to Mass. Gen. Laws chapter 71, section 96 (as amended by [St. 2016, c. 52, s. 15](#), *An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education and Prevention*), requires each public school (including district schools, charter schools, and vocational-technical schools) to:

- 1) Have a policy regarding substance use prevention and the education of its students about the dangers of substance abuse;
- 2) Notify the parents or guardians of all students attending the school of the policy;
- 3) Post the policy on the school's website; and
- 4) File the school's substance use prevention and abuse education policies with ESE in a manner and form prescribed by the agency.

Additionally, as part of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Education Policy, Argosy Collegiate promotes an understanding of the risk and protective factors as outlined by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

RISK FACTORS	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chaotic home environment- Ineffective parenting- Little mutual attachment and nurturing- Inappropriate, shy, or aggressive classroom behavior- Academic failure- Low academic aspirations- Poor social coping skills- Affiliations with deviant peers- Perceived external approval of drug use (peer, family, community)- Parental substance abuse or mental illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strong family bonds- Parental engagement in child's life- Clear parental expectations and consequences- Academic success- Strong bonds with pro-social institutions (school, community, church)- Conventional norms about drugs and alcohol 

SOURCE: US Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, (1997) Preventing drug use among children and adolescents: A research-based guide. NIH Publication No. 97 - 4212.

This research indicates that prevention of substance abuse is supported through clear, evidence based programs and information from multiple sources including schools, parents, and community based programs.

Argosy Collegiate Substance Abuse Prevention and Education Policy is based on the following six components: **Leadership, Professional Development, Access to resources and services, Academic and non-academic strategies, Policies and protocols, Collaboration with families.**

I) Leadership - Argosy Collegiate will provide a comprehensive evidence based, culturally sensitive and age appropriate Health Curriculum that addresses information regarding substance abuse prevention and health initiatives to all scholars, staff and families.

II) Professional development – Staff professional development will be provided annually and during the school year, as needed by Argosy Collegiate administration that is effective, evidence based, and culturally sensitive to increase staff awareness of the identification of the risk and preventative factors and appropriate referral.

III) Access to resources and services - Argosy Collegiate will provide training from behavioral health services to support appropriate identification, coordination, and creation of school and community connections to enhance district wide support.

IV) Academic and non-academic strategies - Staff training will be developed from evidence based programs to promote effective strategies both inside and outside of the classroom to ensure the success of all students.

V) Policies and protocols- Argosy Collegiate administrative Team annually reviews policies and protocols to effectively support the Health Curriculum, behavioral supports and strategies, and continued programming to promote positive health strategies.

VI) Collaboration with families – In addition to including policies and procedures on the Argosy Collegiate website and included in the Parent and Scholar Handbook, staff will ensure awareness and access to information regarding programming supports is communicated through outreach, education and community programming on an individual and district-wide basis.

In addition, Argosy Collegiate Charter School will file this policy as prescribed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.