

PIONEER VALLEY CHINESE IMMERSION CHARTER SCHOOL

Substance Use Prevention and Substance Abuse Education Policy¹

We at Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School (“PVCICS”) appreciate that, as a community, we are uniquely situated to adopt a proactive stance to prevent the use and abuse of substances by our student body. As such, we are committed to collaborating with the Massachusetts Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education (“ESE”) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (“DPH”), to provide its students with information on the dangers of opioid, alcohol, and other substance use, identify and support students who may be at risk for substance abuse, and to implement evidence-based, developmentally and culturally appropriate prevention programming.

I. Educational Materials for Students and Parents; Student Athletes

PVCICS provides all students with health and wellness education, which shall include developmentally appropriate information about the risks of substance abuse, and may include some or all of the following:

- The adverse effects of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs;
- The distinction between drug use and drug abuse;
- Factors that cause, affect, and increase the risk of addiction; and
- Methodologies available to treat alcohol and substance addiction.

Student athletes, because of an increased risk of injury and the resultant need for pain management, may be at heightened risk of opioid abuse. In recognition of this risk, PVCICS shall ensure that athletes and their parents are provided with athletics-specific written information on opioid abuse prevention. This material can also be accessed through PVCICS’s website.

Links to relevant information and resources concerning substance abuse are available on PVCICS’s website.

II. Staff Support and Outside Referrals; Communication²

PVCICS employs a variety of professionals such as counselors, school psychologists and nurses to provide health and wellness services to students. These professionals will also receive and provide staff training concerning substance use and abuse problems that students may experience. Due to daily interaction, PVCICS staff members are uniquely situated to identify changes in performance, demeanor, and/or appearance that may indicate a student’s use or abuse of substances. Our staff will receive training on recognizing and intervening on behalf of students who are at risk of using or abusing substances.

School staff, as appropriate, will facilitate referrals to outside support organizations. Staff will ensure that ongoing communication occurs between staff, parents/guardians, students, and outside providers.

III. Substance Use Prohibition

Students shall not use, consume, buy, sell, or possess any tobacco, alcohol, and/or drug on school property or at any school function. This prohibition includes any and all beverages containing alcohol; any tobacco products, including but not limited to “natural” or vapor/e-cigarettes; or any controlled substance (including but not limited to marijuana). Any student who is found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol before or during school or a school-sponsored event will not be permitted to participate in school and/or the event, and may be subject to disciplinary action consistent with PVCICS’s Code of Conduct, including suspension and/or expulsion.

¹ This policy was prepared in accordance with MGL c. 71 s. 96. *See* <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section96> for more information.

² PVCICS’s implementation of this policy shall comply at all times with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Massachusetts student records regulations (603 C.M.R. §§23 et seq.), and all other federal and state laws applying to student privacy rights.