

## Substance Use Prevention Policy for: **MATCH CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

### **Preface:**

Match Charter Public School (“Match”) recognizes that, as a school, it has a unique and important opportunity to proactively prevent substance use and abuse. As such, Match will collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including the Massachusetts Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and 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.

### **Statement of Protocol:**

The purpose of this policy to outline prevention practices to be implemented at Match to decrease the likelihood that Match students will use or abuse dangerous substances. The protocols detailed below shall at all times be subject to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Massachusetts student records laws), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and any other relevant federal or state law.

### **Administrative Guidelines:**

Match shall review and update this policy as needed to reflect applicable research and best practices in accordance with MGL c. 71 s. 96 (as amended by St. 2016, c. 52, s. 15).

## **A. Educational Materials for Students and Parents**

- I. Health Educational Programing: Match will provide high-quality health and wellness education that will include developmentally appropriate information about the dangers of substance abuse. Such programing may include topics such as:
  - a. The distinction between drug use and drug abuse;
  - b. negative effects of different types of drugs/substances;
  - c. factors that cause and affect addiction;
  - d. addiction’s effect on the body, the brain, and overall wellness; and
  - e. methods to treat and support individuals who are addicted to substances.
- II. Opiate Abuse Prevention Materials for Student Athletes: Due to the risk of injury and the subsequent need for pain management, student athletes may be at increased risk for opioid misuse. As such, prior to the start of each sports season, Match will provide to athletes and athletes’ parents with DPH-approved written education information on prescription opioid misuse prevention that is specific to athletics. Such materials shall also be publically available on Match’s website.
- III. Resources for Students and Families: On its website, Match will provide links to relevant information, resources and organizations related to substance use and abuse that may be helpful for parents/ guardians, students and educators. Match recognizes that

parents/ guardians play a critical role in the prevention of substance use and abuse, and shall encourage parents to contribute to prevention efforts.

## **B. Professional Services and Referrals**

- I. Role of Staff: Match employs and contracts School-based Licensed Mental Health Professionals (“Mental Health Professionals”) to provide services to students, as well as to provide trainings for staff for the variety of mental health problems that students can experience, including substance use (see Match’s Mental Health Policy). Given that Match staff interact with students on a daily basis and are therefore often able to recognize changes in performance, demeanor, and/or appearance that may indicate a student’s use or abuse of substances, Mental Health Professionals will share information with relevant staff on how to identify and refer for evaluation students who may be at risk of using or abusing substances.
- II. Referrals and Collaboration: School leaders and Mental Health Professionals will facilitate referrals to community behavioral health providers, as necessary. Professional best practices should be followed related to communication between staff, parents/guardians, students, and outside providers, as well as for ongoing monitoring and re-entry to school plans, if required.

## **C. Substance Use Prohibition**

- I. Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use: A student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy or sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product, including vapor/E-cigarettes; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. Match prohibits the use or consumption by students of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs on school property or at any school function. Additionally, any student who is under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages prior to, or during, attendance at school or participation in a school-sponsored activity will be barred from that activity and may be subject to disciplinary action, per the Student Discipline Policy for: Match Charter Public School.