

Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School Substance Use Prevention Policy

An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education and Prevention was signed into law on March 14, 2016, as [Chapter 52 of the Acts of 2016](#). **Mass. General Laws chapter 71, section 96** (as amended by [St. 2016, c. 52, s. 15](#)):

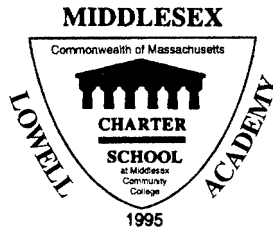
I) Leadership Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School maintains a safe and supportive learning environment as part of their overall mission. LMACS leadership is essential in developing and implementing effective substance use prevention and abuse education policies. Per Mass. Gen. Laws c. 71, s. 96, “the policy, and any standards and rules enforcing the policy, shall be prescribed by the school committee in conjunction with the superintendent or the board of trustees of a charter school.” The school leaders develop clearly defined goals to prevent and address substance use and abuse among youth. LMACS leadership results in strong links between identified local needs and prevention program/system designs. LMACS’ 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. Together with the LMACS leadership, The Treatment Intervention Team plays a key role in implementing and overseeing these programs.

II) Professional development ^[SEP]Faculty and staff see students on a daily basis and often recognize changes in student performance, demeanor, and appearance that indicate a student may be at risk. LMACS provides tiered training, so that all school staff know school policies, procedures, ^[SEP]and protocols for prevention, intervention, and follow-up in preventing and responding to substance use and abuse.

All faculty and staff are provided training on the early warning signs and behaviors that indicate a student may be experiencing substance use problems, and are aware of referral systems and other protocols to follow. Only trained and qualified staff will administer the verbal screening tool to screen pupils for risk for substance use related problems. (See below for more information on Verbal Screening Tools.)

The LMACS Treatment Intervention Team is responsible for implementing substance use prevention curricula and have received specific training and professional development on implementing evidence-based programs and effective strategies for preventing substance use.

III) Access to resources and services



The Treatment Intervention Team has 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. LMACS maintains a resource list of services available through the agencies in the Lowell area.

IV) Academic and non-academic strategies

Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School integrates substance use prevention education in many ways. LMACS implements an evidence-based substance abuse prevention curriculum through Health Class, assorted Life Skills Classes, Advising discussions, and school-wide programs. These programs are developmentally appropriate and demonstrate cultural competency.

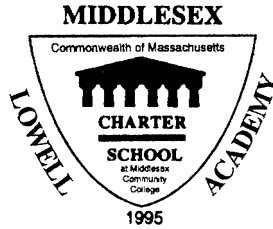
The LMACS Assistant Director is designated as the point of contact and support for students who are considered to be at risk. The Treatment Intervention Team includes the Assistant Director, School Social Workers, and the School Nurse.

A Bio-psychosocial Assessment is performed with each student during their first month as a student at LMACS. These assessments are completed by the Social Workers and cover a student's history of use or abuse. At-risk students are identified at that time and appropriate communication with students and parents/designated adult is confidential. If necessary, appropriate referrals are made. The Treatment Intervention Team has guidelines for reintegration of students if treatment is sought.

Faculty and the Treatment Intervention Team work to meet the needs of those students most at risk.

V) Policies and protocols

It is the policy of the Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School that a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use/consume, possess, buy/sell, be under the influence or give away any beverage containing alcohol; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled or illegal substance/drugs or look alike substance/drug, medication/prescription (inconsistent with the Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School Medication Policy) and/or volatile substances on school grounds and/or prior to or during school sponsored or school related activities or events. Such actions may result in the student being barred from school activities and events and/or may also result in further disciplinary action including, but not limited to expulsion from the Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School. All incoming students and their Designated Adult sign a Substance Abuse



Policy Contract prior to their first day of school.

Staff shall take the following steps in regards to any student, who violates this policy

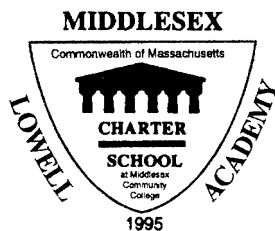
- The Director will investigate the allegation consistent with Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School policies and guidelines and take appropriate action (which could include, but is not limited to disciplinary and/or alternatives to disciplinary action) consistent with said policies and guidelines including, but not limited to contacting the student's designated adults.
- Any substance discovered in violation of this policy will be confiscated and the Lowell Police will be notified. Violations of this policy may constitute criminal acts.
- The Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School cooperates with law enforcement agencies to ensure that illicit activities by students and others are discouraged in and around the vicinity.
- The Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School follows this policy with the full consideration to the legal rights of the student(s) involved and the rights and safety of the school community.
- The Assistant Director provides assistance to any student voluntarily seeking alcohol, tobacco or drug treatment or advice.

VI) 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.

Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School emphasizes the importance of school-community-home collaborations in weaving together the resources for comprehensive, multifaceted approaches to preventing substance use and abuse. Parents and Designated Adults are provided with information regarding the LMACS Substance use prevention and abuse education policies.

The Substance Use Prevention Policy is posted on the LMACS website and information on the LMACS policies, procedures, and



protocols are included in the Student handbook.

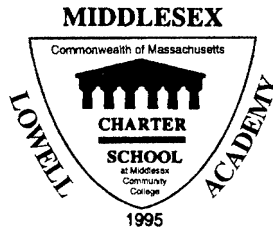
VERBAL SCREENING TOOLS

In compliance with MGL Chapter 71, Section 96 & 97, Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School (LMACS) will be conducting verbal screenings of all students. The intent of this screening is to help prevent students from beginning the use of alcohol, marijuana and other drugs, along with providing assistance to students if they are currently using such substances. The goal of this program is to let the students know that we are available to reinforce healthy decisions and to assist them in obtaining support, if needed, for substance use related problems.

All screenings will be conducted confidentially, in private one-on-one sessions by trained personnel. The most commonly used substance use screening tool for adolescents in Massachusetts, the CRAFFT II screening tool, will be utilized. If needed, students will be referred to one of our school licensed Social Workers for further evaluation. LMACS students will be screened during their second semester. This program focuses on substance use prevention and does not generate disciplinary action. Results of the screening are confidential and will not be included in any school record. The screening is voluntary, and students may choose not to answer any or all of the screening questions.

The CRAFFT II will be conducted during the school year on students in their second term at LMACS. The screening is voluntary, and students may choose not to answer any or all of the screening questions. A pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian may opt out of the screening by written notification at any time prior to or during the screening. De-identified screening results will be reported to the department of public health, not later than 90 days after completion of the screening.

Any statement, response or disclosure made by a pupil during a verbal the substance-use disorder screening shall be considered confidential information and shall not be disclosed by a person receiving the statement, response or disclosure to any other person without the prior written consent of the pupil, parent or guardian. The only exceptions are in cases of immediate medical emergency or a disclosure is otherwise required by state law. Such consent shall be documented on a form approved by the department of public health and shall not be subject to discovery or subpoena in any civil, criminal, legislative or administrative proceeding. No



record of any statement, response or disclosure will be made in any form, written, electronic or otherwise, that includes information identifying the pupil.

Updated 07/2018
