

National Yeshiva High School Substance Abuse Policy

September 2024

A yeshiva high school is a community dedicated to fostering students' educational, spiritual, and personal development. We partner with students and parents to nurture this growth in every student. As part of this commitment, we also promote the safety and health of our greater yeshiva community: the families and neighborhoods we serve. To further this noble goal, we have collaborated as yeshiva high school leaders and consulted with mental health professionals to develop guidelines for addressing substance use among our students. Substance use includes, but is not limited to, the use of marijuana or other illegal drugs and substances, non-prescription medications, alcohol, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vapes, juuls, and other similar devices and substances.

Education and Prevention

We strive to educate our students and their parents about the dangers and realities of substance use. This education includes annual programming for our students and their parents. Recognizing the valuable partnership between school and parents, we recommend that each school run an annual parent event attended by at least one parent from each of the school's families.

In addition to programming, schools may mandate drug testing. The goal of this testing is to encourage students to make healthy choices for substance-free living.

Drug Usage or Possession

1. Students who engage in substance use are strongly encouraged to consult with the school's guidance faculty or administration to discuss the problem. Students can be confident that such problems will be addressed professionally, confidentially, and with compassion. In order to best help the students who are facing substance use issues, parents will be involved as early as possible in the discussion. Students can be assured that they are welcomed and encouraged to seek help from the school guidance faculty or administration, and that the involved faculty members will support them with sensitivity and will only notify appropriate adults (including, always, parents) without disclosing their conversations to anyone else.

Upon learning of a student's substance use, the appropriate school faculty will develop a program of treatment, based on conversations with the student, his or her parents, and a professional therapist. The goal of this plan will be to help the student address his or her substance use challenge in a healthy, therapeutic manner while, b'ezrat Hashem, remaining in school.

2. Our school community has entrusted us to provide a safe, wholesome environment for our students, particularly when the students are on school grounds and at school activities. Therefore, any student found to be in possession of or using drugs or any other substance in school, on school property, or while participating in a school event, may be asked to leave the school.

While the school in which the student is enrolled may ask the student to leave, other schools will make a good-faith effort to accept the student, subject to other considerations and factors, at the school's discretion.

3. Dealing: As an extension of our commitment to provide a safe and wholesome environment for our students, a student who is found to be distributing and/or providing drugs or other substances, whether in or out of school, may be asked to leave the school.
4. Hosting or attending an open house/party: Students may not host other students at their homes for parties that include any form of substance use. Students who host such an "Open House" may be suspended from school and may face further disciplinary action including expulsion.

Parents should not leave teenagers home alone for the weekend. Parents should be careful when hosting parties in their homes to ensure that no substances are present. Through social media, when large numbers of teenagers are invited to an event, often many, many more attend, causing the crowd to become too large to supervise and enabling dangerous activity. Parents who host parties where there is underage substance use are violating the law and may face sanctions from the school.

It is our fervent and sincere hope that this policy will encourage our students to feel safe turning to school faculty for help in addressing substance abuse issues, with the knowledge that they will be supported and respected. B'ezrat Hashem, we are committed to helping our students pursue healthy life choices that enable them to grow and flourish.

Please note that each school signed below may have additional substance use policies not mentioned in this agreed upon document.



Rabbi Eli Slomnicki
Hebrew Academy of Nassau
County High School (HANC)



Mrs. CB Neugroschl
Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for
Girls



Rabbi Jeffrey Beer
Westchester Hebrew High School



Rabbi Shimon Shenker
Yeshiva University High School for Boys
(MTA)



Rabbi Eli Ciner
The Frisch School



Rabbi Yisroel Kaminetsky
Davis Renov Stahler Yeshiva High
School for Boys (DRS)



Mr. Harvey Feldman
Yeshivat Darche Eres (YDE)



Mr. Shimmie Kaminetsky
Katz Yeshiva High School of South
Florida



Rabbi Dr. Seth Grauer
Bnei Akiva Schools of Toronto



Dr. Daniel Vitow
Magen David Yeshivah High School



Rabbi Joseph Beyda
Yeshiva of Flatbush Joel
Braverman High School



Ms. Naomi Lippman
Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns
and Rockaway (HAFTR)



Rabbi Jonathan Kroll
SAR High School



Rabbi Leonard Matanky
Ida Crown Jewish Academy



Mrs. Bracha Rutner
Yeshiva University High School for
Girls (Central)



Rabbi Arye Sufrin
YULA High School



Rabbi Ami Neuman
JEC High School



Dr. Jonathan Cannon
RAMAZ Upper School



Dr. Bethany Strulowitz
Bruriah High School



Dr. Jeff Kobrin
North Shore Hebrew Academy
High School



Rabbi Noam Stein
Kohelet Yeshiva High School



Rabbi Allan Houben
Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy
Rabbi Moshe H. Levinson Upper School



Rabbi Maccabee Avishur
Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School



Rabbi Josh Kahn
Torah Academy of Bergen County
(TABC)



Rabbi David Block
Shalhevet High School



Rabbi Dr. Yaakov Jaffe
Maimonides School



Mrs. Bluma Drebin
Stella K. Abraham High School for
Girls (SKA)



Mrs. Deena Kobre
Naaleh High School for Girls



Rabbi Aaron Leibtag
Fasman Yeshiva High School



Rabbi Yakkov Sadigh
Hillel Yeshiva High School



Rabbi Avery Joel
Fuchs Mizrachi School



Rabbi Richard Tobias
Barkai Yeshiva High School