

## **Policy Regarding Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Prevention Education at BART**

In accordance with state and federal law, BART Charter Public School shall provide age and developmentally appropriate alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention education programs during 6th through 12th grade education.

In coordination with the Drug Free Schools Committee of the Northern Berkshire County superintendents and school leaders, BART shall implement the evidenced-based prevention curriculum, Life Skills, to all middle and high school students. This curriculum has been provided by the District Attorney of Berkshire County, David Capeless, along with training for teachers. BART also partners with local community agencies that provide resources and assistance for recovery and treatment.

The alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention program shall address the long-reaching and potentially life-altering consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, with emphasis on non- use by school-age children. The program shall also include information about effective techniques and skill development for delaying and abstaining from using, as well as skills for addressing peer pressure regarding such usage.

The objectives of this program, as stated below, are rooted in BART's belief that prevention requires education, and that the most important aspect of BART's policies and guidelines, as approved by its board of trustees, should be the education of children and youth on healthy decision-making:

- To prevent, delay, and/or reduce alcohol, tobacco, and drug use among children and youth;
- To increase students' understanding of the legal, social, and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use; and
- To teach students self-management skills, social skills, negotiation skills, and refusal skills that will help them to make healthy decisions and avoid alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.

Families may find other health-related resources on our *Community Resources for Family* website (<https://sites.google.com/a/bartcharter.org/community-resources/>). For specific information regarding the implementation of these policies, including disciplinary consequences up to and including exclusion from school, please refer to the student handbook.