

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: FHS Student Handbook

Date: November 28, 2017

Dept: School Committee

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

I recommend making the addition to the FHS Student Handbook as discussed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

<u>Vote Tabulator</u>	
A. Bergen: Y / N	D. Schultz: Y / N
C. Douglas: Y / N	MJ Scofield: Y / N
D. Feeley: Y / N	G. Zub: Y / N
M. Linden: Y / N	Action: _____



Franklin Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent
355 East Central Street; Suite 3
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Phone: 508-553-4819*

To: Franklin School Committee

From: Sara E. Ahern, Ed.D., Superintendent

Date: November 22, 2017

RE: Breathalyzer Use at Franklin High School

Student leaders at Franklin High School requested that administration consider using Breathalyzers in order to curb underage drinking at high school events.

Mr. Peri, Mr. Klements, and I met to discuss proposed language, from which the high school administrators drafted a proposal to include in the Student Handbook. This proposed language, included for you in your packet, has also been reviewed by the school district's attorney. We are seeking School Committee approval for inclusion of this language in the Franklin High School Student Handbook, 2017-2018.

High School administrators would begin the practice of using Breathalyzers during the current school year.

Proposed Franklin High School Student Handbook Language on Breathalyzer Use

[Link to current District Policy on Alcohol](#)

The possession, sale, distribution or use and/or abuse of alcohol is not only illegal on school property or at school events or activities, but is also in violation of Franklin Public Schools' district policy and not in keeping with Franklin High School's code of conduct and core values.

When determining possible alcohol possession, sale, distribution or use by a student during the school day or at any school related event or function, the administration's primary concern is always student safety and well-being. In assessing a student's possible alcohol use, administration may use a breath alcohol testing device, which indicates the presence or absence of alcohol.

Franklin High School administration also reserves the right to randomly screen students or screen all students at school events/functions with proper notice to students and their families.

The purpose of having breath alcohol testing is to deter alcohol possession, sale, distribution and/or use and encourage all members of the student body to make healthy, positive choices.

It may be necessary during the school day or during a school related event to administer a breathalyzer test to a student whose demeanor may give reasonable suspicion that he/she is under the influence of or has consumed alcohol. This behavior may include but is not limited to:

- Use or possession of alcohol
- Odor of an alcoholic beverage
- The presence of an alcohol container
- Slurred speech
- Unsteady gait
- Lack of coordination
- Bloodshot or glazed eyes
- Vomiting
- Marked change in personal behavior not attributable to other factors
- A report from a third party
- Assessment by the school nurse

Breathalyzer Procedure:

If an administrator reasonably suspects or receives a report that a student may be under the influence of alcohol, then he/she may use a breathalyzer as a part of the investigation. The test will be administered privately by an administrator in the presence of a second staff member.

If the test is positive, the students can request two (2) additional tests taken at least two (2) minutes apart. If possible, a second device will be used for subsequent testing. If the additional tests are positive:

1. Parents/guardians are notified and requested to take the student home.
2. If the student is determined to be at risk and in need of medical assistance, the school nurse and/or emergency personnel will be contacted and parents/guardians are notified.
3. Disciplinary action will be taken consistent with the Franklin High School Handbook.
4. If the test is negative, the student will be allowed to resume activity if the administrator does not suspect the use of other drugs.

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or is suspected to have consumed alcohol and refuses to be tested:

1. An administrator will notify parents/guardians to pick up the student and detain the student until said parent/guardian's arrival.
2. If the student is in need of immediate medical assistance, emergency personnel will be contacted.
3. The police may be called to take the student into protective custody, as appropriate.
4. The student's refusal will be considered comparable to being under the influence and disciplinary action will be taken consistent with the Franklin High School Handbook.

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or is suspected of having consumed alcohol and leaves the scene against a school official's request:

1. Parents/guardians are notified
2. Local police will be notified, as appropriate.
3. Disciplinary action will be followed as outlined in the Franklin High School Handbook consistent with students' under the influence.

Students representing Franklin Public school athletic teams are held to a high standard of conduct. The conduct of these student athletes is governed not only by rules established by this policy, but also by applicable MIAA rules.