**October 25, 2016**

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee has completed its review and voted to accept updated versions of the two most relevant policies, Policy #H8050 “Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs” and Policy #H8023 “Use of Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol by Students” to ensure they are in compliance with the new Opioid Legislation.

[Policy #H8050. “Teaching About Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs”](http://www.hwschools.net/uploaded/District/Policies/Student/Policy-Teaching_About_Alcohol,_Tobacco,_Drugs.pdf)

[Policy #H8023. “Use of Tobacco, Drugs, and Alcohol by Students”](http://www.hwschools.net/uploaded/District/Policies/Student/Use_of_Tobacco,_Drugs_Alcohol_(updated_2016).pdf)

**March 2016  - Massachusetts Law Addressing the Opioid Epidemic**  
  
On March 14, 2016 Governor Charlie Baker signed landmark legislation  
into law to address the deadly opioid epidemic plaguing the  
Commonwealth. The bill is titled An Act relative to substance use,  
treatment, education and prevention.  This new law includes multiple  
provisions including a 7-day limit on every opiate prescription for  
minors  (with certain exceptions),  a mandate for a verbal screen for  
substance use disorders in students and a requirement that information  
on opiate-use and misuse be disseminated to all students participating  
in an extracurricular athletic activity prior to their athletic  
season.   
  
This information can be found at our sports concussion website  
([www.mass.gov/sportsconcussion](http://www.mass.gov/sportsconcussion)) at  
  
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/community-health/dvip/injury-prevention/substance-use-disorder.html>.  
  
Here you will find information on substance use and misuse, where to  
get help for your child, resources and a link to the Dept. of Public  
Health Bureau of Substance Abuse Services.  Please make sure prior to  
every sports season that this educational information is distributed  
to all student athletes and their parents participating in  
extracurricular sports.  Also, trainings for school health personnel  
in screening for substance use are currently underway and your school  
health personnel are encouraged to attend one of these free programs  
provided by the Department of Public Health.  Please see the schedule  
posted on [www.neushi.org](http://www.neushi.org/) for more information related to these  
programs.  
  
Thank you for continuing to ensure the safety and health of the  
Commonwealth’s students.