



## Annual Drug and Alcohol Awareness Prevention Program Notice

### *AIMS Education - A Drug Free School and Community Act Policy*

The American Institute of Medical Sciences & Education is a drug and smoke free campus for students and employees, and has adopted and implemented programs and policies to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and/or staff.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 includes provisions that authorize federal and state judges to deny certain federal benefits, including student aid, to persons convicted of drug trafficking or possession. A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for FSA funds and render him/her ineligible for the funds until the Federal and State standards are again met with by the individual.

The school maintains drug and alcohol education information, which can be obtained from the Student Services Coordinator. **Available Drug and Alcohol Counseling and Rehabilitation are available through [www.drugfreenj.org](http://www.drugfreenj.org). or Call 973-467-2100**

#### *Health Risks Associated with the use and abuse of Alcohol*

- Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses of alcohol significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident.
- The use of even small amounts of alcohol by a pregnant woman can damage the fetus. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the likelihood of a variety of aggressive acts.
- Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairment in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Heavy use may result in chronic depression and suicide, and may also be associated with the abuse of other drugs.
- Very high doses can cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce effects described above for very high doses.
- Long-term, heavy alcohol use can cause digestive disorders, cirrhosis of the liver, circulatory system disorders and impairment of the central nervous system, all of which may lead to early death.
- Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence, and at least 15-20 percent of heavy users eventually will become problem drinkers or alcoholics if they continue drinking.
- Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations and convulsions, which can be life threatening.



*Health Risks Associated with the use and abuse of illicit Drugs*

- The use of illegal drugs, and the misuse of prescription and other drugs, poses a serious threat to health. For example, the use of marijuana may cause impairment of short-term memory, comprehension, and ability to perform tasks requiring concentration.
- The use of marijuana also may cause lung damage, paranoia and possible psychosis.
- The use of narcotics, depressants, stimulants and hallucinogens may cause nervous system disorders and possible death as the result of an overdose.
- Illicit inhalants can cause liver damage. There are significant risks associated with the use of alcohol and drugs.
- The risks include and are not limited to impaired academic or work performance; lost potential; financial problems; poor concentration; blackouts; conflicts with friend and others; vandalism; theft; murder; sexual assault and other unplanned sexual relationships; spouse and child abuse; sexually transmitted diseases; and unusual or inappropriate risk-taking which may result in physical or emotional injury or death.

***Notice of Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations***

- A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for FSA funds. Following chart describes penalties that may occur if a student is convicted of an offence related to Drug Law Violations.

	Possession of illegal drugs	Sale of illegal drugs
1st offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
2nd offense	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3+ offenses	Indefinite period	

- Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV aid – they do not count if the offense was not committed during such a period. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student’s record does not count, nor does one received when he/she was a juvenile, unless he/she was tried as an adult. The student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when he successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program. Further drug convictions will make him/her ineligible again.
- Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it only after successfully completing a rehabilitation program or if a conviction is reversed, set aside, or removed from the student’s record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student



regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify that he/she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program.

- When a student regains eligibility during the award year, Pell aid may be awarded for the current payment period and Direct loans for the period of enrollment.

AIMS Education abides by the Drug & Alcohol Free Schools and Communities Act. As a Student or Employee of AIMS Education we have been informed, and have received an invitation to attend Drug-Free awareness program at the school that explain the following:

- Danger of drugs and alcohol abuse in the school/workplace
- Policy maintaining a drug-free environment
- Listing of available drug counseling and alcohol rehabilitation and assistance program.
- Penalties that may be imposed for drug and alcohol abuse violations occurring in the school.

