

MN ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS – NEW LAW PRIMER 2023

NEW: CANNABIS EDUCATION PROGRAM – (MN Statutes 120B.215)

SCHOOL PROGRAMS MUST BEGIN IN 2026 -2027 SCHOOL YEAR

- **Schools must implement a comprehensive education program** on cannabis use and substance use, *(including the use of fentanyl)* for students in middle and high school.

Must address:

- The physical and mental health effects of cannabis use by children including effects on developing brains
- Unsafe or unhealthy behaviors associated with cannabis and substance use
- Signs of substance use disorders
- Treatment options
- Healthy coping strategies for children and adolescents

Must:

- Respect community values and encourage communication between students and parents / trusted adults about substance use
- Refer students to local resources to get medically accurate information about substance use
- Include a plan to develop, implement, or improve instruction and curriculum on these topics

MODEL PROGRAM LIST FROM MDE – AVAILABLE JUNE 2025

- MDE will provide a list of model programs to be used to education middle and high school students on the health effects on children and adolescents of cannabis use and substance abuse *(including fentanyl and beyond)* consistent with local health academic standards.

PARENTAL REVIEW

- Schools must **establish a procedure** for a parent, guardian, or 18-year-old student to review the content of the instructional materials.
- Schools must inform and allow parents or adult students to **opt out** with no penalty.

YOUTH COUNCIL

- Schools may establish youth councils in which student members receive education and training on substance use and provide peer-to-peer education on these topics.

EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR