

SAFE HOMES PARENTS NETWORK

"Parents, guardians, and community working together for drug-free youth"

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING TEXTBOOKS AND CURRICULUM

- 1.** Must be appropriate to age level.
- 2.** Presumption of non-use.
- 3.** Use is wrong, harmful, and illegal.
- 4.** Non-use is right, healthy, and legal.
- 5.** Outline realistic consequences of drug use, not just physical effects.
- 6.** Both short-term and long-term effects of drug use should be listed.
- 7.** Emphasis on student's responsibilities to say NO, to help others say NO, to uphold the law, to be as healthy as possible, to do what is right, etc.
- 8.** Resource materials should be up-to-date, accurate, and protective of children, pro-parent.
- 9.** Textbooks must be non-promotional of drug use.
- 10.** Positive behavioral expectations.
- 11.** Family, teacher, police, etc. mentioned as resources for assistance.
- 12.** Extensive listing of warning phrases, misleading concepts, pro-drug terms, etc. in teacher text along with rationale.
- 13.** The unique harmful nature of each drug must be noted.
- 14.** Alcohol included as an illegal drug for those under legal drinking age.
- 15.** Display of positive, healthy role models.
- 16.** Clear and consistent messages.
- 17.** Conforms to existing guidelines for textbook adoption.
- 18.** Avoid history of drugs, reasons for doing drugs, student choice and responsible use concepts, which usually tend to "normalize" the pro-drug ethic.
- 19.** Study "NO-USE" techniques and teach refusal skills.
- 20.** Mention of student anti-drug groups, support groups, positive future trends.
- 21.** Study of addiction and addictive process with emphasis on empowering non-users to help users.
- 22.** Positive statement about drug abuse: preventable, NO USE = no addiction; treatable, success rates are rising, but still not medically acceptable.
- 23.** Include the relationship of drugs to AIDS.
- 24.** Adaptable to different target audiences.
- 25.** Easy to update.

~ Jean B. Newberry, Texans' War of Drugs, 3833 S. Staples, Ste. 83, Corpus Christi, TX 78411

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