



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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**Bulletin #MHP-708 CAO/SCLE**

**Contact Person:**

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**ACTION BY:  
Information Only**

**TO:** All Middle and High School Principals

**FROM:** Judith Klinek, Chief Academic Officer 

**SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE TO SUSPENSION FOR ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUGS**

“Teen tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana users are at least twice as likely as nonusers to have poor grades and teen marijuana users are approximately twice as likely as nonusers to drop out of high school.”

Adolescent Substance Use: America's #1 Public Health Problem, June 2011

Students who use drugs are less likely to achieve academically and to graduate. Ensure that any students who violate the School District's alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and possession policies are offered the Alternative to Suspension (ATS) Program for middle and high school students. Please review the details of the ATS programs with all staff who address alcohol, tobacco, or other drug referrals, including: Assistant Principals, Deans, Guidance Counselors, and School Based Team members. New staff may be unfamiliar with these programs, which are provided by the Department of Safe Schools/Student Intervention Services. See the attachment for related procedures and forms.


Suspended youth may complete one of the district-approved ATS programs: 1) FACE IT<sup>SM</sup>, the district's nationally award-winning, educational substance abuse early intervention program that requires parent/guardian participation; 2) an assessment by a licensed provider; or 3) a tobacco cessation class. Families select the best option for them and enroll accordingly.

Referral to an alternative is required by the discipline matrix and is consistent with the goal of keeping students in school and reducing out of school suspension days. Research shows the positive relationship between student attendance and academic achievement. Participation in an ATS program supports students' academic progress by: 1) reducing the number of days out of school; 2) offering education about the risks of substance use; and 3) teaching life skills.

For further information, contact the FACE IT<sup>SM</sup> line at 561.366.6973 or PX 76973.

EWG:JK:KO:KCW:ls:gv:cy

Attachments

Approved:   
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent

**Attachment to Bulletin #MHP-708 CAO/SCLE  
Alternative to Suspension for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs**

Students and their parents/guardians have the option of selecting one of the district's Alternative to Suspension programs.

I. FACE IT<sup>SM</sup> - The District's Alternative to Suspension (ATS) Program for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

FACE IT<sup>SM</sup>, which is offered free of charge at centrally-located sites across the county, is a substance abuse early intervention program providing life skills education relating to the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Its goal is to empower families to help their teen make healthy, drug-free choices. A parent or caregiver attends every class with the youth. Family members complete an enrollment online at [www.FACEITenrollment.com](http://www.FACEITenrollment.com) where they can print out all necessary information. Once enrollment is complete, FACE IT<sup>SM</sup> faxes a confirmation to the school.

II. Licensed Providers – the district provides a list of licensed providers who are familiar with the Alternative to Suspension requirements.

A. Alcohol and Other Drugs –licensed to provide alcohol and other drug assessment, counseling, and treatment

B. Tobacco –licensed to provide tobacco cessation classes to adolescents

## PROCEDURES

School administrators use the ATS forms as outlined below. These forms serve two purposes: 1) to inform the parents/caregivers of the Out-of-School Suspension and opportunity to attend an Alternative to Suspension program; and 2) to document completion of the ATS. It is the students' responsibility to return the signed confirmation of completion to the school. While the administrator provides information about the Alternative to Suspension options, it is the parent's/caregiver's responsibility to enroll in the program of choice.

### Tobacco Suspension

- **First Tobacco Offense:** A student who is suspended for a first tobacco offense receives a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension of which seven (7) days are held in abeyance.

**PBSD 1453** –Alternative to Suspension - First Tobacco Offense. The top portion of this form is completed by the school and given to the parent/caregiver along with the FACE IT<sup>SM</sup> Brochure and licensed Tobacco Cessation Program List.

- **Second Tobacco Offense:** A student who is suspended for a second tobacco offense in the same school year receives a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension of which five (5) days are held in abeyance.

**PBSD 1454** –Alternative to Suspension – Second Tobacco Offense. The top portion of this form is completed by the school and given to the parent/caregiver along with the FACE IT<sup>SM</sup> Brochure and Tobacco Cessation Program List.

### **Alcohol and Other Drug Suspension**

- A student who is suspended for paraphernalia or an alcohol or other drug possession or use offense receives a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension of which five (5) days are held in abeyance.
- There is a mandatory 10-day suspension with no Alternative to Suspension for a repeated offense within the same school year.

**PBSD 1435** - Alternative to Suspension. The top portion of this form is completed by the school and given to the parent/caregiver along with the FACE IT<sup>SM</sup> Brochure and licensed Providers' List.

The above Alternative to Suspension forms and brochures are available in English, Spanish, and Creole on the District's website.

### **Additional Forms**

- **PBSD 1914** – Alternative to Suspension Initial Intake Confirmation – given to those families who choose to see a provider. The form allows the student to confirm an appointment with this provider.
- **PBSD 2128** – School Checklist - Administrators complete the ATS Checklist and fax a copy to FACE IT<sup>SM</sup>- Alternative to Suspension Checklist for school staff