Drug use and its consequences require significant annual expenditures for criminal justice and healthcare systems; they erode economic competitiveness, military readiness, educational outcomes, and workforce productivity. Americans with drug or alcohol use disorders spend more days in the hospital and require more expensive care than they would absent such disorders. Overall, the economic impact of illicit drug use on American society totaled more than $193 billion in 2007, the last year for which data are available.

Recent data on prescription drug abuse offer cause for concern. The largest number of past-year new users initiated drug use with psycho pharmaceuticals, more than any other drug, including marijuana. In the past ten years, drug-induced deaths—driven by prescription drugs—have more than doubled.

Also troubling is the fact that youth attitudes toward illicit drug use are softening. Young people are becoming less likely to perceive illicit drug use as risky or to disapprove of those who use drugs. Historical data show that when youth perception of risk diminishes, their use increases.

**Consequences of Drug Use**

Drug-induced deaths now outnumber gunshot deaths in America. In 17 states and the District of Columbia, drug-induced deaths now exceed motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death. Over ten percent of diagnosed HIV cases are transmitted via injection drug use, and drug use itself fosters risky behavior contributing to the spread of infectious diseases nationwide. Studies of children in foster care find that two-thirds to three-quarters of cases involve parental substance abuse.

Illicit drug use is also inextricably linked to crime, not only because of the costs of purchasing drugs, but because the pharmacological effects of many drugs lead to violent behavior. Survey data indicate that over half of state and Federal inmates used drugs during the month preceding the offense corresponding to their sentence, and nearly one-third of state prisoners and a quarter of Federal prisoners used drugs at the time of the offense. The 2010 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Annual Report (ADAM II) corroborates this trend. The percentage of booked arrestees testing positive for at least one illicit drug ranges from 49 percent in Washington, D.C., to 87 percent in Chicago, regardless of the crime.

Illicit drug use disproportionately affects certain segments of society: active duty military and Veterans; women and their families; college and university students; and those in the criminal justice system.
Though illicit drug use and its consequences are exacting a toll in the United States, there is reason for hope. Decades of research have shown that a comprehensive approach, focused on reducing both supply and demand, can achieve safe and healthy outcomes for individuals and communities. There are no simple solutions to the drug problem in America. Everyone must work to keep young people healthy and drug-free, intervene before drug use becomes chronic, get help to those who suffer from addiction, support families and individuals on the path to sustained recovery, use law enforcement tools when appropriate, and bolster the efforts of our partners abroad.

**Nebo Policies and Procedures on Student Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs**

**Statement of Intent**

Distribution, or sale of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and/or other similarly hazardous substances, such as inhalants, inappropriate use of prescription or over-the-counter drugs, or drug paraphernalia, constitutes a hazard to the welfare of students and faculty, and is illegal under the laws of the State of Utah.

**Statement of Alcohol and Drug Policy**

Nebo School District prohibits any unauthorized student use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol, controlled substances, imitation controlled substances, and/or similarly harmful substances, or drug paraphernalia. These actions are prohibited in any school building, or on any other property owned or operated by the District, or at any school-sponsored activity, or in any vehicle dispatched by the District to transport students to or from an activity. These prohibitions apply whether or not the actions occur during regular school hours.

**Disciplinary Action for Violation of Alcohol and Drug Policy: Use or Possession**

Disciplinary action, independent of any court action, will be taken by the School District in cases involving the illegal use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances, imitation controlled substances, and/or other similarly harmful substances, or possession of drug paraphernalia. Students will be subject to immediate suspension or possible expulsion for violation of the policy.

Any disciplinary action will follow the District’s due process procedures for students.

**Statement of Tobacco Policy**

Nebo School District prohibits any unauthorized student use, possession, sale, or distribution of tobacco/alcohol products. These actions are prohibited in any school building, or any other property owned or
operated by the District, or at any school-sponsored activity, or in any vehicle dispatched by the District to transport students to or from an activity. These prohibitions apply whether or not the actions occur during regular school hours.

**Definitions**

The word “tobacco” shall include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless, electronic cigarettes, or other tobacco products in any form.

**Disciplinary Action for Violation of Tobacco Policy**

Disciplinary action, independent of any court action, will be taken by the School District in cases involving the use, possession, sale, or distribution of tobacco/tobacco products. Students will be subject to suspension, or possible expulsion for violation of this policy.