

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

The Board of Education is committed to the prevention of alcohol and other substance use/abuse. This policy describes the philosophy of the district and the program elements the district will use to promote healthy life styles for its students and to inhibit the use/abuse of alcohol and other substances.

No student may use, possess, sell, or distribute alcohol or other substances, nor may use or possess drug paraphernalia, on school grounds or at school-sponsored events, except drugs as prescribed by a physician. The term "alcohol and/or other substances" shall be construed throughout this policy to refer to the use of all substances including, but not limited to, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any of those substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs." The inappropriate use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs shall also be prohibited.

Additionally, the following persons shall be prohibited from entering school grounds or school-sponsored events: any person exhibiting behavior, conduct, or personal or physical characteristics indicative of having used or consumed alcohol and/or other substances, or any person who school personnel have reasonable grounds to suspect has used alcohol and/or other substances.

In order to educate students on the dangers associated with substance abuse, the health education curriculum shall include instruction concerning drug abuse for grades K-12.

Any staff member observing narcotics possession or usage by students shall report the incident immediately to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall then seek immediate action. Any narcotics found shall be confiscated immediately, followed by notification of the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student(s) involved and the appropriate disciplinary action taken, up to and including permanent suspension and referral for prosecution. In its effort to maintain a drug-free environment, the district shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible with local, state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

The district will use the following principles as guides for the development of its substance use/abuse prevention efforts and for any disciplinary measures related to alcohol and other substances:

- Alcohol and other substance use/abuse is preventable and treatable.
- Alcohol and other substance use/abuse inhibits the district from carrying out its central mission of educating students.
- The behavior of the Board, the administration, and all school staff should model the behavior asked of students.
- While the district can and must assume a leadership role in alcohol and other substance use/abuse prevention, this goal will be accomplished only through coordinated, collaborative efforts with parents, students, staff, and the community as a whole.

Ref: Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 U.S.C. §§3171 et seq.
 20 U.S.C. §114-5g
 42USC §§5101, 11841
 34 CFR Part 86
 Education Law §§804; 912-a; 3214
 General Municipal Law §239-u
 Mental Hygiene Law §19.07(c)
 Penal Law §§220.00 et seq.
 Public Health Law, Article 33
 8 NYCRR §§100.2(c); 135.3

New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
Odenheim v. Carlstadt-East Rutherford Region School District, 211 N.J.
Super. 54, 510 AD2d 709 (1985)
People v. Scott D., 34 NY2d 483 (1974)
Matter of Wilson, 28 EDR 254 (1988)
Matter of Pollnow, 22 EDR 547 (1983)
Matter of Vetter, 20 EDR 547 (1981)
Matter of Rodriguez, 8 EDR 214 (1969)

Adoption date: June 12, 2001

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE REGULATION

Primary Prevention

The intent of primary prevention programming is to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol and other substance use by students. The components of this programming shall include:

1. Primary prevention through early and regular health screening and other programs done by the school doctor and nurse.
2. A sequential K-12 prevention curriculum that provides for:
 - Accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol and other substances, including the physical, psychological and social consequences for their use/abuse.
 - Information about the relationship of alcohol and other substance use/abuse to other health-compromising behaviors or illnesses such as HIV and AIDS, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, child abuse, suicide, and dropping out of school.
 - Helping students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol and other substances and to promote healthy life styles.
 - Helping students identify personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse and the steps needed for risk reduction.
 - Helping students develop a positive self-concept.
 - Helping students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce such stress through non-chemical means.
3. Training school staff, to use the information and skills necessary to reinforce the components of this policy and regulation in the home, school and community.
4. Community education about the issues of alcohol and other substance use/abuse as a basis for providing a consistent message to district youth.
5. Positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extracurricular activities. Such activities will be planned collaboratively with students, school staff, parent(s)/guardian(s), community members, and agencies.

Intervention

The intent of intervention programming is to eliminate any existing use/abuse of alcohol and other substances, and to identify and provide supportive services to kindergarten through 12th grade students at high risk for such use/abuse. The components of such programming shall include:

1. providing information on alcohol and other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services;
2. developing a referral process between district schools and community providers;
3. identifying and referring students to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substance requires counseling and/or treatment;
4. providing services to students in or returning from treatment to ensure that the school environment supports the process of recovery initiated in the treatment program;
5. providing individual, group, and family counseling targeted at students at high risk for alcohol and/or other substances use/abuse;

6. educating parent(s) or guardian(s) on when and how to access the district's intervention services; and
7. ensuring confidentiality as required by federal and state law.

Disciplinary Measures

Penalties

- I. First offense for a student possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or other substance on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle
 - A. If the first offense occurs during the instructional day or at a school-sponsored activity, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted and directed to remove their son/daughter from school or the activity for the balance of the day or that activity.
 - B. The student will be subject to an in-school or out-of-school suspension for a period not exceeding three days. The Building Principal may request or be requested to apply for a Superintendent's Hearing if he/she feels that more than five days of suspension appear necessary due to his/her concern for the health and safety of that student or other students in the school. The Superintendent of Schools may recommend restricted instruction and/or placement in alternative instruction at any time.
 - C. The student will be immediately suspended from all school extracurricular activities for a period not exceeding 30 calendar days.
 - D. Prior to a student returning to school, a parent/guardian - student conference will be held with the Principal or his/her designee.

- II. Second offense for a student possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or other substance on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle
 - A. If the second offense occurs during the instructional day or at a school-sponsored activity, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted and directed to remove their son/daughter from school or the activity for the balance of the day or that activity.
 - B. The student will be subject to an in-school or out-of-school suspension for a period not exceeding five days. The Principal may request or be requested to apply for a Superintendent's Hearing if he/she feels that more than five days of suspension appear necessary due to his/her concern for the health and safety of that student or other students in the school. The Superintendent may recommend restricted instruction and/or placement in alternative instruction at any time.
 - C. The student will be immediately suspended from all school extracurricular activities for a period not exceeding 60 calendar days. A student may be readmitted, at the discretion of the Principal, as a member of an extracurricular activity prior to the completion of his/her extracurricular activity suspension. However, the student will be suspended from such extracurricular activity for a minimum of two weeks prior to such reinstatement.
 - D. Prior to a student returning to school, a parent/guardian - student conference will be held with the Principal, or his/her designee.

- III. Third and subsequent offense for a student possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or other substance on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle
- A. If a third or subsequent offense occurs during the instructional day or at a school-sponsored activity, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted and directed to remove their son/daughter from the school or activity for the balance of the day.
 - B. The student will be subject to an in-school or out-of-school suspension for a period not exceeding five days. The Principal may request or be requested to apply for a Superintendent's Hearing if he/she feels that more than five days of suspension appear necessary due to his/her concern for the health and safety of that student or other students in the school. The Superintendent may recommend restricted instruction and/or placement in alternative instruction at any time.
 - C. The student will be immediately suspended from all school extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. A student may be readmitted, at the discretion of the Principal, as a member of an extracurricular activity prior to the completion of his/her extracurricular activity suspension. However, the student will be suspended from such extracurricular activity for a minimum of four weeks.
 - D. Prior to a student returning to school, a parent/guardian - student conference will be held with the Principal.

IV. Sale/Distribution of Alcohol or Other Substances

Any student found to be selling or distributing alcohol or other substances on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle will be suspended from all extracurricular activities for a minimum of 120 calendar days.

Note: In addition to the penalties noted in sections I, II, III and IV, above, district officials will be obligated to contact the police and advise them that a student had used, possessed, sold or distributed alcohol or other substances on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle.

V. Student who self-refers to school faculty or parent for assistance in dealing with their alcohol or other substance use/abuse.

If a student self-refers for assistance in dealing with his/her chemical use, he/she will be referred to support services through the building team. Amnesty from discipline will continue as long as a student follows his/her recommended intervention program. If that student does not follow the intervention program, he/she will be subject to the provisions of this regulation regarding suspension from extracurricular activities.

The offenses set forth in this regulation will be documented cumulatively throughout the time a child attends the district.

Students who are disciplined for any of these infractions will be encouraged to participate in the intervention services established by Board policy.

Staff Development

The Board recognizes that if the administrative, instructional, and non-instructional staff are to be responsible for understanding, implementing and modeling the district's policy and regulation on student Drug and Alcohol Abuse, they must be trained about the components of an effective alcohol and other substance prevention program. Staff training will be an ongoing process.

Implementation, Dissemination, and Monitoring

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop the specific programs and strategies necessary to implement Board policy. Such plan of action shall respect the rights of individuals and the sensitive nature of the problems of substance use/abuse and will be consistent with this policy.

Upon adoption, copies of this policy and regulation will be distributed to and reviewed with all district staff, students, and parent(s) or guardian(s) annually and will be disseminated to the community through its organizations.

The Superintendent is responsible for providing the Board with an annual review of this policy and regulation, the programs and strategies implementing it, and his or her recommendations for revisions.

Adoption date: June 12, 2001