

STUDENTS

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Policy Statement

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a drug, alcohol and tobacco free environment for students in the school district. It is the policy of the Board of Education to take positive action through instruction, counseling, parental involvement, medical referral and law enforcement referral, as appropriate, in handling incidents involving the possession, distribution, sale or use of drugs, alcohol, performance enhancing substances, and other substances that affect behavior.

In keeping with this policy, the use, possession, sale, or distribution of drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, performance enhancing substances, or alcoholic beverages is prohibited on school premises or at any school sponsored activity, including athletic activities. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary measures including suspension and expulsion. In addition, the student's parents will be contacted and referrals will be made to the appropriate treatment agency and/or law enforcement agency as deemed appropriate. Students should also be aware that they are subject to mandatory expulsion proceedings if they engage in the sale or distribution of a controlled substance regardless of whether such conduct occurred on or off school grounds. Furthermore, student athletes who violate this policy may be subject to removal from participation in athletic activities.

The personal privacy rights of students shall be protected as provided by law. Students are on notice that school properties, including lockers and desks, may be searched when there is reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will produce evidence that the student has violated school rules. Please see also Policy 5145.12 Search and Seizure.

*** Students will be notified annually of the requirements of this policy and potential disciplinary sanctions through the student handbook or other appropriate means of notification.**

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Controlled Substance" is a drug, substance, or immediate precursor in schedules I to V, inclusive, of the Connecticut controlled substance scheduling regulations adopted pursuant to section 21a-243 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
2. "Drug" is any quantity of a substance which has been designated as subject to the federal Controlled Substances Act, or which has been designated as a depressant or stimulant drug pursuant to federal food and drug laws, or which has been designated by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 21a-243 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as having a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect upon the higher functions of the central nervous system and as having a tendency to promote abuse or psychological or physiological dependence, or both. Such drugs are classifiable as amphetamine-type, barbiturate-type,

cannabis-type, cocaine-type, hallucinogenic, morphine-type and other stimulant and depressant drugs.

3. "Drug Paraphernalia" is any equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing or concealing, or injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body, any controlled substance. This includes, but is not limited to objects used, intended for use or designed for use in ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing marijuana, cocaine, hashish, or hashish oil into the human body, such as: Metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic or ceramic pipes with screens, permanent screens, hashish heads or punctured metal bowls; water pipes; carburetion tubes and devices; smoking and carburetion masks; roach clips: Meaning objects used to hold burning material, such as a marijuana cigarette, that has become too small or too short to be held in the hand; miniature cocaine spoons, and cocaine vials; chamber pipes; carburetor pipes; electric pipes; air-driven pipes; chillums; bongs or ice pipes or chillers.

4. "Performance Enhancing Substance" is any anabolic steroid, hormone or analogue, diuretic or other substance designed to enhance a student's athletic ability or performance, including creatine, androstenedione, ephedrine or other performance enhancing nutritional supplements as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) www.wada-ama.org, except when used under the care and direction of a licensed medical professional and only then in the manner prescribed by the medical professional and manufacturer's recommendations.

5. "Professional Communication" is any communication made privately and in confidence by a student to a professional employee of such student's school in the course of the latter's employment.

6. "Professional Employee" means a person employed by a school who (A) holds a certificate from the State Board of Education, (B) is a member of a faculty where certification is not required, (C) is an administration officer of a school, or (D) is a registered nurse employed by or assigned to a school.

Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products

All students are prohibited from smoking or using tobacco products, including any derivation of these products, such as but not limited to electronic cigarettes, at any time on school grounds, in school buildings, on school vehicles and when students are subject to the supervision of designated school personnel, such as when a student is at any school sponsored function, extracurricular event, field trip, or school related activity.

Disclosure or Discovery of Drug/Alcohol Problem

In this policy, it is the intent of the Board of Education to differentiate between voluntary and involuntary disclosure or of a student's substance abuse problem.

1. Voluntary Disclosure

If a student voluntarily tells a professional employee during a professional communication information concerning the student's alcohol or drug abuse, the following guidelines shall apply:

- (a) The professional employee is not required to disclose any information acquired through a professional communication with a student when such information concerns alcohol or drug abuse or any alcoholic or drug problem of such student. The professional employee may elect to disclose such information when the employee believes it is necessary to safeguard the health and well-being of the student. In no event is the professional employee required to do so.
- (b) The professional employee should make every effort to guide the student to obtain the kind of help he/she needs. A staff member may, without disclosing the name of the student, obtain advice and information on the resources available to students and refer the student to such resources.
- (c) If a professional employee obtains physical evidence from a student indicating that a crime has been or is being committed by the student, such employee shall be required to turn such evidence over to school administrators or law enforcement officials immediately, but no later than two school days after receipt of such physical evidence. In no such case shall the employee be required to disclose the name of the student from whom he obtained such evidence.
- (d) Any physical evidence surrendered to a school administration pursuant to this section shall be turned over by such school administrator to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection or the appropriate law enforcement agency within three school days after receipt of such physical evidence, for its proper disposition.
- (e) No parent or legal guardian shall be entitled to information concerning drug and alcohol abuse that is considered to be a privileged communication between a student and a professional employee.
- (f) If a student consents to the disclosure of his/her alcohol or drug abuse problem, or if the professional employee deems disclosure to be necessary to safeguard the health and well-being of the student, such employee will make a report to the student's guidance counselor or Department of Special Services mental health professional and the building Principal.
- (g) The guidance counselor or Department of Special Services mental health professional will, upon confirmation of an alcohol or drug abuse problem by a student under the age of eighteen hold a conference with the parent. Corrective plans will be developed with the cooperation and consent of the parents and student. The parents will be given a written copy of the conference minutes and recommendations for corrective plans.
- (h) Copies of the conference minutes will be kept in the guidance counselor or Department of Special Services worker's professional file. The counselor or Department of Special Services mental health professional will maintain contact with the student and his/her family regarding the problem.
- (i) The building principal will be informed of all activity relative to assisting the student to solve his/her alcohol or drug abuse problem.

2. Involuntary Disclosure

When a professional employee obtains information related to a student who, on or off school grounds or at a school sponsored activity, is under the influence of or possesses, uses, dispenses, distributes or sells a controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, performance enhancing substances or alcohol from a source other than the student's confidential disclosure, such information is considered to have been disclosed involuntarily and the following guidelines apply:

- (a) The employee will report the information immediately to the building principal.
- (b) Any physical evidence in the form of alcohol or drugs (including performance enhancing substances) or related paraphernalia obtained from a student must be turned over to the building principal immediately. Because the discovery of the student's drug or alcohol problem was made without the voluntary disclosure of the student, the professional employee must disclose the name of the student from whom evidence was obtained.
- (c) Any physical evidence surrendered to a school administration pursuant to this section shall be turned over by such school administrator to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection or the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately, but no later than three school days after receipt of such physical evidence, for its proper disposition. If for any reason physical evidence cannot be turned over to law enforcement immediately, it must be stored in a locked location until such time as it is.
- (d) Students found in possession and/or use of a drug, controlled substance, performance enhancing substance, or alcoholic beverage in school or on school property shall be subject to arrest. In the event that a student is to be arrested, the building principal or his/her designee will attempt to contact the parent prior to calling the police and inform them of the potential arrest.
- (e) Students found to have been in possession and/or use of a drug, controlled substance, performance enhancing substance or alcoholic beverage in school are required to meet with the building principal or his/her designee along with the student's parents or guardian, guidance counselor, Department of Special Services mental health professional and school nurse. Corrective plans will be recommended with written notification to the parents. Arrangements for further follow-up will be made. The counselor or Department of Special Services mental health professional will maintain contact with the student and his/her parents regarding the problem.

Consequences for the Possession, Use, Sale or Distribution of Drugs, Controlled Substances, Performance Enhancing Substances or Alcohol

1. Any student found to use, possess, sell, distribute or aid in the procurement of drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, performance enhancing substances or alcohol either on or off school grounds or at or during a school sponsored activity is subject to discipline up to and including expulsion pursuant to the Board's student discipline policy.
2. Students who are expelled for violating this policy may be referred to appropriate counseling and rehabilitation agencies. In such event, assessment and treatment costs will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.
3. Law enforcement officials will be contacted by the building principal in cases where a student is found to have distributed or sold drugs, controlled substances, performance enhancing substances or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored activity. In all cases of emergency or of clear danger, the schools will cooperate with local law enforcement officials.
4. Student athletes found by the school administration to have violated this policy shall be subject to suspension or exclusion from participation in athletics for short or long periods of time, and/or may have their athletic participation privileges revoked.
5. In addition, with regard to student use of performance enhancing substances, the school administration shall report any such violation(s) to the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference ("CIAC") as may be required by the Conference.

Emergencies

1. If an emergency situation results from a student's drug or alcohol use, the student shall be sent to the school nurse or medical advisor immediately. The parent or guardian will be notified.
2. If the student is in need of immediate medical attention, the student will be transported to an area hospital.
3. If immediate medical attention is not necessary, the parent or guardian will be asked to take the student home.
4. The building principal will be immediately notified when an emergency involving a student's use of drugs or alcohol arises. The school nurse will advise the principal of the severity of the emergency. Written records of the incident will be kept in the principal's confidential file.
5. In the event that a student is hospitalized for alcohol, drug or substance abuse related problems, school personnel will consult with the student's medical and/or psychiatric advisers, his/her parents or guardian and, if feasible, the student to determine an appropriate plan of action.

Instruction

1. The program of instruction in the schools shall include the subject matter of substance abuse prevention.
2. Each academic year, students in all grades shall be taught the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to understand and avoid the effects of alcohol, nicotine, tobacco and drugs on health, character, citizenship and personality development. The Board of Education shall annually attest to the State Department of Education that the students of the district have been taught such subjects in accordance with a planned, ongoing and systematic program of instruction.
3. The professional staff shall become more aware of substance abuse issues among students and learn to recognize and address the symptoms of such problems. In-service training programs for teachers, administrators and pupil personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or professional educator certificate shall include information on the nature and the relationship of drugs and alcohol to health and personality development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, as well the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children.
4. The administration may make use of in-service training sessions for both certified and non-certified staff in order to achieve the goals of this policy.
5. The administration shall enforce compliance by both staff and students with Board policies concerning the proper administration of medication, as provided under Connecticut General Statute §10-212a. Accordingly, no staff member (including coach or volunteer) shall supply, recommend or permit student athletes to use any drug or medication, except as permitted by Board policies governing the administration of medication. Under no circumstances shall any staff member (including coach or volunteer) shall supply, recommend or permit student athletes to use any performance enhancing substances.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-15b Access of parent or guardian to student's records.
- 10-16b Prescribed courses of study
- 10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and AIDS
- 10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student.
- 10-212a Administration of Medications in Schools and at Athletic Events.
- 10-220a In-service training. Professional development.
- 10-221(d) Boards of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures
- 10-233d Expulsion of students
- 21a-240 Definitions
- 21a-243 Regulations re: schedules of controlled substances
- §21a-249 Prescription requirements
- §21a-277 Penalty for illegal manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing. §21a-278 Penalty for illegal manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription or administration by non-drug-dependent person.

20 U.S.C.A. §7101 *et seq.*, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act