

**CODE OF CONDUCT
DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE**

Alcohol and other substance use/abuse by youth is a total community problem. The Board of Education is committed to the prevention of alcohol and other substance use/abuse. Prevention and control of the use of drugs for non-medical purposes will be possible only through the coordinated efforts of family, clergy, and the schools, as well as the medical and legal professional communities, governmental and community agencies, and law enforcement authorities. 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, manufacture 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, any intoxicating liquor, inhalants, and any drugs which are illegal such as marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alikes, drugs which have a legitimate purpose but are highly addictive, and any of those substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs." The inappropriate use or sharing of prescription and over-the-counter drugs shall also be prohibited. All searches for drugs or illegal substances shall be documented, regardless of whether such search discloses any drugs or illegal substances. A request to a student to open his or her hand shall not be considered a search.

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 alcohol and substance abuse for grades K-12.

Any staff member observing narcotics or alcohol possession or usage by students shall report the incident immediately to the Building Principal or his/her designee. Any narcotics or alcohol found shall be confiscated immediately, followed by notification of the parent(s) or 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 collaborative, coordinated efforts with parents/guardians, students, staff, and the community as a whole.

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee will prepare and submit a statement to the State Education Department certifying to federal agencies to which the district applies for direct grant assistance that the district has taken steps and will continue to take steps to maintain a drug-free school environment.

The district will conduct a biennial review of its program to determine its effectiveness and recommend changes to the Policy as needed. The district will ensure that the applicable sanctions are enforced if there is a violation of the drug-free school environment policy and/or “Standards of Conduct.”

Ref: Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 USC §§3171 et seq.
 Drug-Free Schools and Campuses, 34 CFR Part 86
 Public Law 101-226
 Education Law §§804; 912-a; 3214
 General Municipal Law §239-u
 Mental Hygiene Law §19.07©
 Penal Law §§220.00 et seq.
 Public Health Law, Article 33
 8 NYCRR §§100.2©); 135.3
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 105 S.Ct. 733 (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)

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