

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. 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/or other substance use/abuse is preventable and treatable.
- Alcohol and/or 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.

Cross-ref: 4317, Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
5310, Student Discipline
5230, Student Social Events
5330, Searches and Interrogations

Ref: Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (20 USC §§3171 et seq.)
Public Law 101-226
Education Law §§804; 912-a; 3214
8 NYCRR §§100.2(c); 135.3
General Municipal Law §239-u
Mental Hygiene Law §19.07(c)
Penal Law §§220.00 et seq.
Public Health Law, Article 33
New Jersey v. TLO, 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)

Adoption date: June 21, 1993

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE REGULATION

Primary Prevention

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

1. A sequential K-12 prevention curriculum that provides for:
 - Accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol and/or other substances, including the physical, psychological, and social consequences for their use/abuse.
 - Information about the relationship of alcohol and/or other substance use/abuse to other health compromising behaviors such as 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/or 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 stress through non-chemical means.
2. Training school staff, parents and guardians to use the information and skills necessary to reinforce the components of this policy in the home, school and community.
3. Community education about the issues of alcohol and other substance use/abuse as a basis for providing a consistent message to district youth.
4. Positive alternatives to alcohol and/or other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extra-curricular activities. Such activities will be planned collaboratively by students, school staff, parents, 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 alcohol and/or other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services for students.
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 substances requires counseling and/or treatment.
4. Providing services to students in or returning from treatment to assure 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 parents on when and how to access the district's intervention services.
7. Ensuring confidentiality as required by Federal and State Law.

Disciplinary Measures

Disciplinary measures for students found to have used or to be using, in possession of, or distributing alcohol and/or other substances and for students possessing drug paraphernalia are as follows:

First Violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the student may choose between the following disciplinary options:

Option A

1. the student shall lose eligibility for ten (10) school days from his or her regularly scheduled school or extraclassroom activity;
2. the imposition of penalties may be delayed at the discretion of the Building Principal in instances where the school club or organization would be unable to perform;
3. the student, of his/her own volition, shall become a participant in a chemical dependency program, treatment program and/or education or instruction, whichever is deemed necessary;
4. the Building Principal will meet with the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the direction of the program;
5. the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be responsible for their son/daughter completing the program in good standing;
6. if the student is a class officer or a club official, he/she will lose this privilege for the remainder of the school year;
7. the student will not be eligible for any award at the end of the school year; and
8. if the student violates any part of Option A, the student will automatically receive Option B.

Option B

1. the student will receive eight (8) weeks suspension from all non-credit extraclassroom activities; and
2. the student will not be eligible for any award at the conclusion of the school year.

Second Violation: After confirmation of the second violation:

1. the student will lose eligibility from non-credit extraclassroom activities for ten (10) calendar months from the date of the violation; and
2. a student who does not enter a chemical dependence program will lose eligibility from non-credit and extraclassroom activities for one year from the date of the violation.

Students who are disciplined for any of these infractions will be referred to 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 including the following:

1. For all staff: (a) an understating of why individuals use and abuse alcohol and other substances, (b) their role in implementing this policy, including how to identify students who exhibit high risk behaviors or who are using/abusing alcohol and other substances, and how to refer these students to the appropriate services established by this policy, (c) awareness of personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse so that they may identify personal use/abuse problems and seek assistance, and (d) awareness of the special needs of students returning from treatment.
2. Additionally for teachers: the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the district's K-12 alcohol and other substance prevention curricula.
3. For intervention staff: appropriate staff training for those identified to carry out the intervention function to assure that their assessment individual group, and family counseling and referral skills support the needs of high risk, using and abusing youth.

Implementation, Dissemination, and Monitoring

The Board charges the Superintendent of Schools to collaborate with district staff, parents, students, community members, organizations, and agencies, including alcohol and other substance abuse service providers, in developing the specific programs and strategies necessary to implement Board policy.

Upon adoption, copies of Board policy and this regulation will be distributed to and reviewed with all district staff, students, and parents 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 21, 1993