

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The Board of Education believes that the possession, use or distribution of alcohol and drugs in the school environment is a substantial danger to students and all other individuals in the school community. Therefore, such actions will not be tolerated. Copies of Board Policies on the use of alcohol and other drugs are available online. The following information may help you understand the policies more clearly. (Board of Education Policy #5530)

What are the consequences of a first violation of the policy?

If you are reasonably suspected of having violated the alcohol and drug policy for the **first time** you will be

- Suspended from school (9 days OSS)
- Excluded from extracurricular activities for the duration of your suspension
- Expected to follow the school policy
- Counseled by the Student Assistance Counselor and/or guidance counselor to develop a plan of recovery.
- Process may involve the Police, Security, or School Resource Officer

If the violation is sufficiently serious, you may be recommended for expulsion from school. Your parent/guardian, and the principal must meet in conference prior to your return to school.

What are the consequences of a second violation?

If you **violate the policy a second time**, you will be

- Immediately suspended (at least 9 OSS)
- Recommended to the Board of Education for expulsion

All violations are cumulative.

What does “possession, use, or distribution” mean?

Being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance in school or at a school-sponsored event is considered a prohibited use, regardless of the time or place the substance was ingested.

Possessing alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance in school or at a school-sponsored event is prohibited.

Giving, providing, or making available to another student an alcoholic beverage or controlled dangerous substance is considered a prohibited distribution, regardless of

- whether an actual transfer of the substance was completed,
- whether anything of value was asked for or received in return, and
- the time or location of the distribution.

Where does this policy apply?

The policy applies on school premises, within the drug-free school zone, on school buses or other authorized transportation, and at any event away from school that is authorized or sponsored by the district. Even if you ingest the substance prior to your arrival at school or at a school-sponsored event, you will be considered to be in violation of the policy.

What happens if I am suspected of being under the influence?

- If you appear to be under the influence, you will be reported to the school nurse and the principal or his/her designee.
- An immediate evaluation will occur until you can be examined.
- Your parents/guardian and the superintendent will be notified.
- The principal will arrange for an immediate medical examination by the school medical inspector or by a physician selected and paid for by your parent/guardian. You will have to go to Labcorp for a drug test.
- If neither your physician nor the medical inspector is available, you will be transported by the emergency squad or the police to the emergency room of the nearest hospital. You will be accompanied by a member of the school staff and, if available, your parents/guardian.

- Your parents/guardian and the school should get a report from the examining physician within 24 hours. If the report is not received within 24 hours, you may not be allowed to return to school.
- The principal or his/her designee may institute a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that there will be evidence that you have violated the policy. Confiscated substances will be turned over to police and/or medical personnel for analysis.
- Police assistance may be requested.
- If you are determined to have been under the influence, you will be suspended, as described above.
- You will not be allowed to return to school until your physician submits a report to your parents/guardian, the principal, and the superintendent indicated that substance abuse no longer interferes with your physical and mental ability to perform in school.

What if I am suspected of being in possession or distributing alcohol or other drugs?

- If any staff member has reason to believe that you are in possession of, selling, or distributing alcohol or other drugs, you will be placed under the supervision of the principal or his/her designee.
- The suspected substance will be confiscated.
- The principal or designee may institute a search if there are reasonable grounds to believe that there will be evidence that you violated the policy.
- Your parents/guardians and the superintendent will be notified.
- If it is determined that you have violated the policy, a conference will be held with you, your parents/guardian, and the principal.
- Police assistance will be requested in all cases involving controlled dangerous substances.
- You will be suspended, as described above.
- You will be referred to the Student Assistance Counselor or other appropriate specialists for an evaluation. A follow-up plan that addresses your specific needs will be developed.

What if I think I have a drug or alcohol problem but have not violated the policy?

- If you confide in a staff member that you have a problem, or if another student contacts a staff member regarding your drug or alcohol use, or if a staff member suspects that you have a problem because of academic, social, physical or psychological changes in behavior, the staff member should discuss his or her concern with the SAC or their designee.
- The discussion should focus on observed signs or symptoms.
- You will be referred to the SAC
- Fact-finding by program staff will be limited to discussion with you unless you agree otherwise.
- The Counselor will develop and evaluate a treatment plan that addresses your specific needs.
- If you voluntarily acknowledge your problem prior to having allegations made against you and if you successfully complete a rehabilitation program, the information you provide will not be used against you, providing that you do not violate the policy in the future.
- Your physician must provide a report that you are physically and mentally able to return to school.
- You cannot seek refuge under this policy if you are found to be under the influence, in possession of, or distributing alcohol or drugs in violation of the policy.