

Drug And Alcohol Use By Students

The district is committed to a process that focuses on students achieving a healthy, balanced, alcohol-free and drug-free lifestyle--one that builds confidence and responsibility to the student, the student's family, and the community.

The district recognizes that substance abuse is a treatable health problem which does not respect any group or age. Health problems of youth are primarily the responsibility of the home and community, but schools share in that responsibility because substance abuse problems affect student behavior at school and interfere with student learning and the student's fullest possible development. The responsibility for student substance abuse prevention and intervention programs is a shared one.

It is strictly prohibited for any student to possess, use, sell, distribute, receive, procure or be under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance on school property, in a school vehicle or at any school-sponsored or sanctioned activity, or otherwise at any time or place when such conduct interferes with or disrupts school operations or compromises the safety or welfare of students and/or district employees. Such conduct shall be considered behavior which is detrimental to the welfare, safety and morals of other students or school personnel and behavior which creates a threat of physical harm to the student engaged in such conduct and/or to other students.

For purposes of this policy, "controlled substances" include but are not limited to narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic or mind-altering drugs or substances, amphetamines, barbiturates, stimulants, depressants, marijuana, anabolic steroids, any other controlled substances as defined in law, and any prescription or non-prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical substances not taken in accordance with Board policy and regulations on administering medication to students. "Controlled substances" also include substances that are represented by or to the student to be any of the controlled substances described above, or what the students involved believe to be any of the controlled substances described above.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions which may include suspension and/or expulsion from school and referral for prosecution. Expulsion shall be mandatory for sale or distribution of drugs or other controlled substances on school property.

Situations in which a student seeks counseling or information from a professional staff member for the purpose of overcoming a substance abuse problem shall be handled on an individual basis depending upon the nature and particulars of each case. When appropriate, parents/guardians shall be involved, and every effort shall be made to direct the substance abuser to sources of help.

The Board, in recognition that drug and alcohol abuse is a community problem, shall actively cooperate with law enforcement, social services, parents/guardians and all other individuals and community organizations committed to reducing the incidents of alcohol and controlled substance abuse by school-aged youths.

Whenever possible in dealing with student drug and alcohol use, school personnel shall provide students and their parents/guardians with information concerning education and rehabilitation programs that are available. Such information provided to students and parents/guardians shall be accompanied by a disclaimer which clarifies that the district assumes no financial responsibility for the expense of such programs, unless district financial responsibility is otherwise required or voluntarily undertaken by the district.

The district shall provide all students and parents/guardians with a copy of this policy and its accompanying regulations on an annual basis.

The Board shall conduct a periodic review of the district's drug and alcohol use policy and programs to determine their effectiveness, to implement any required changes and to ensure that student disciplinary sanctions are being consistently enforced.

Adopted: September 18, 1990

Revised: December, 1993

Revised: May 2000

Revised: February 24, 2004

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. §3221 (defines drug abuse education and prevention)
20 U.S.C. §7115 (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act)
C.R.S. 18-18-102(3), (5)
C.R.S. 18-18-407(2)
C.R.S. 22-1-110
C.R.S. 22-33-106(1)(d)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(VII)

CROSS REFS.: IHAMA, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
JFG, Interrogations and Searches
JKD/JKE, Student Suspension and Expulsion
JLCD, Administering Medicines to Students