

DRUG AND ALCOHOL/CHEMICAL USE BY STUDENTS

RSU No. 56 supports providing a safe, healthy, productive learning environment for students that is free from the detrimental effects of alcohol, and illegal substances. Accomplishing this goal requires a cooperative effort among school staff, students, parents, law enforcement, and organizations concerned with the healthy development of all students entrusted into our care use of drugs and alcohol by school-aged youth.

In order to promote the safety, health and well being of students, the Board endorses a three-pronged approach to address the issue of drug and alcohol use: prevention/education, intervention, and discipline. The Superintendent/designee is responsible for developing appropriate administrative procedures, curricula and cooperative programs to implement this policy.

Self-Referral

As an educational institution charged with the academic and social well being of students, it is hoped that students who are personally experiencing substance abuse would feel comfortable enough to seek assistance from a trusted adult in the school. Students who engage adults in the school regarding their own personal experiences related to drug or alcohol use shall be referred to the school social worker or guidance counselor.

Prohibited Conduct

No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, or use alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor. Nor shall a student manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, imitation drug or substance purported to be a drug, and any other controlled substance defined in federal and state laws/regulations.

These prohibitions apply to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school. It is not a violation of this policy for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug properly administered and specifically prescribed by his/her physician.

Prevention/Education

RSU No. 56 will provide students with appropriate information and programs focused on educating students about drugs and alcohol and preventing their use. Programs shall teach students that the use and/or misuse of drugs and alcohol is wrong and harmful: how to resist peer pressure; and address the legal, social and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and possession.

Intervention

RSU No. 56 will use a team approach to intervene and assist students with drug/alcohol problems. The building principal or his or her designee will be responsible to implement this team approach. The "team" members who will intervene and assist students will include all or some of the following: school administrator(s), guidance personnel, school nurse, social worker personnel and external agencies that provide counseling services for substance abuse. Administrator will follow up periodically on student progress. Student records concerning such interventions shall be kept confidential as required by state and federal laws.

Discipline

The RSU will dedicate resources to prevention and intervention. However, the RSU also recognizes the need for students to be held liable for illegal behaviors regarding drug and alcohol. Students who violate drug and alcohol policies will be subject to the student code of conduct and will be referred to local law enforcement.

Policy Communication

This policy will be published in all student handbooks, whether they be electronic or hard copy.

Reviewing/Revision

Policy Committee will review and evaluate this policy periodically.

Legal Reference: 21 USC § 812 (Controlled Substances Act)
 21 CFR Part 1300.11-15
 P.L. 101-226 (Drug-Free Schools & Communities Act Amendments of 1989)
 17-A MRSA § 1101
 42 USC § 290dd-2
 42 CFR § 2.1 et seq.
 20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9); 4008

Cross Reference: GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace
 JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
 JKD – Suspension of Students
 JKE – Expulsion of Students
 JLCD – Administering Medication to Students
 JRA – Student Records
 ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession

Adopted: July 11, 2017