

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

The Board and staff of RSU 29 support a safe and healthy learning environment for students that is free of the detrimental effects of drugs and alcohol. Accomplishing this goal requires a cooperative effort among school staff, students, parents, law enforcement and organizations concerned with the 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 multi-pronged approach to address the issue of drug and alcohol use; prevention/education; intervention and discipline. The Superintendent is responsible for developing appropriate administrative procedures, curricula and programs to implement this policy.

A. Prohibited Conduct

No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of “bath salts” or of any 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, any other controlled substance defined in federal and state laws/regulations, any look-alike substance, or any substance that is represented to be, or purported to have a similar effect as, a controlled substance.

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.

B. Prevention Education

RSU 29 will educate students about drugs, alcohol and tobacco as part of the comprehensive health curriculum. Programs will teach students that the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco is harmful, how to resist peer pressure and address the legal, social and health consequences of use.

C. Intervention

The school unit will establish a team approach to intervene with students with

drug/alcohol problems. Students will be assisted in addressing their drug/alcohol problems and in continuing their educational program. Students will be provided with information and referral, if necessary, to aid them in obtaining assistance from appropriate community organizations. Student records concerning such interventions shall be kept confidential as required by state and federal laws.

D. Disciplinary Action

Principals may suspend and/or recommend expulsion of students who violate this policy, based upon the facts of each case and in accordance with established disciplinary procedures. Students may also be referred to law enforcement authorities for investigation and/or prosecution.

E. Policy Communication

The school unit shall distribute this policy and appropriate related information to staff, students and parents on an annual basis through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators.

Legal Reference: 21 USC § 812 (Controlled Substances Act)
21 CFR Part 1300.11-15
P.L. 101-226 (Drug-Free Schools and 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

Adopted: November 1, 1999

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