

**ALCOHOL USE, DRUGS, AND TOBACCO
(INCLUDING PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES)**

Pursuant to the goal of the board of education to maintain a drug, tobacco and alcohol-free school district, schools shall take positive action through education, counseling, parental involvement, and medical and police referral in handling incidents in the schools involving possession, sale, and/or use of behavior affecting substances. These substances shall include but not be limited to alcohol and controlled substances as defined in the Penal Code of the State of Connecticut.

Alcohol, stimulants, street drugs, including but not limited to marijuana, heroin and cocaine; anabolic steroids, hormones and analogues, diuretics and other performance enhancing substances; including supplements and Creatine, are addressed by this policy and accompanying administrative regulations.

Privacy Rights

Personal privacy rights of students shall be protected as provided by law. School properties may be inspected by school authorities to maintain health and safety. Searches to locate drugs, narcotics, liquor, weapons, poisons, and missing properties are matters relating to health and safety and may be regarded as reasonable grounds for searches by school personnel. Privileged communication between a certified or paraprofessional employee and a student concerning drug abuse shall remain confidential between student and professional, except in cases where the employee is obtaining physical evidence of a controlled substance, and/or where there is an immediate threat to, or where students' health, safety, and welfare may be jeopardized.

Illegal Activities

Use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs, including prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia and/or alcoholic beverages in violation of state law or Board of Education policy is prohibited at any time on school premises or at any school-sponsored activity. If a student is under the influence of a drug or alcohol, or engaged in the illegal activity of possessing or selling drugs and/or alcohol, the police will be notified, his/her parent(s)/guardian will be contacted, he/she will be suspended from school, referred to a Student Support Team, and considered for expulsion. In cases of the illegal activity of possessing or selling drugs or alcohol, students will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. If a student is arrested and is awaiting trial for possession of, or possession of with intent to sell drugs in or on school property or at a school-sponsored event, the student will not be allowed to attend school without the permission of the Superintendent, per the guidelines set forth in Policy 5114.

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Notification of Policy

Annually, students will be notified through the student handbook, or through other means, of disciplinary sanctions for violation of this policy.

Principals shall include statements, appropriate to student maturity, in school handbooks and on District/school websites to the effect that:

1. the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of controlled substances, other illegal drugs or alcohol is prohibited in school, on school grounds, on school transportation and at school sponsored activities;
2. compliance with the standards of conduct stated in the handbook is mandatory;
3. a violation of its provisions will subject students to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution; and
4. CIAC controlled activities at the high school and middle school levels sponsored by the District/school are included in this policy and accompanying administrative regulations.
5. CIAC may impose sanctions beyond those applied by the District for the use of performance-enhancing substances, as defined in this policy, by athletes.

Disciplinary Action

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action which includes, but is not limited to, suspension or expulsion, and/or a program recommended by the Student Support Team. Student athletes who violate this policy, participating in CIAC-controlled activities shall also be declared ineligible for such activities in accordance with CIAC policy and regulation. Any disciplinary actions imposed will ensure that similar violations will be treated consistently. The Superintendent shall propose and the Board of Education shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

The following guidelines for reported alleged violations are to be followed:

1. If a certified or paraprofessional (non-certified) employee suspects student drug abuse, the employee shall refer the matter to the Student Support Team and administration for evaluation. Following the evaluation, disciplinary action may be imposed if the situation warrants.

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2. If a certified or paraprofessional employee obtains physical evidence of controlled substances from a student in school, on school grounds, on school transportation or at a school sponsored event, the employee shall turn the student and the controlled substance over to the school principal or designee. The Principal shall notify law enforcement personnel and shall surrender possession of the controlled substance to the proper authorities within the time period required by state law.

Drug-Free Awareness Program

The Superintendent shall assure that the school District provides a drug-free awareness program for students including the following topics:

- health and safety-related dangers of drug abuse
- review of the Board of Education's policy of maintaining drug-free schools;
- notification of the availability of drug counseling and rehabilitation programs; and
- official penalties for drug abuse violations in schools.

Inhalant Abuse

In addition to the prohibitions pertaining to alcohol, drugs and tobacco contained in this policy, no student shall inhale, ingest, apply, use or possess an amusable glue, aerosol paint or substance containing a volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply or use of any of these in a manner:

1. Contrary to directions for use, cautions or warnings appearing on a label of a container of the glue, paint aerosol or substance; and
2. Designed to affect the central nervous system, create or induce a condition of intoxication, hallucination or elation, or change, distort, or disturb the person's eyesight, thinking process, balance or coordination.

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For the purposes of this policy, inhalants are defined as follows, but not limited to:

Nitrous Oxide – Laughing Gas, Whippets, CO2 Cartridge

Amyl Nitrite – “Locker Room,” “Rush,” “Poppers,” “Snappers”

Butyl Nitrite – “Bullet,” “Climax”

Chlorohydrocarbons – Aerosol Paint Cans, Cleaning Fluids

Hydrocarbons – Aerosol Propellants, Gasoline, Glue, Butane

Further, no student, 18 years of age or older, shall intentionally, knowingly or recklessly deliver or sell potentially abusable inhalant materials as listed above to a minor student.

No person shall intentionally use or possess with intent to use inhalant paraphernalia to inhale, ingest, or otherwise introduce into the body an abusable glue, aerosol paint or substance or other substance that contains a volatile chemical.

Further, no student, 18 years of age or older, shall intentionally, knowingly or recklessly deliver or sell potentially abusable inhalant materials as listed above to a minor student.

No person shall intentionally use or possess with intent to use inhalant paraphernalia to inhale, ingest, or otherwise introduce into the body an abusable glue, aerosol paint or substance or other substance that contains a volatile chemical.

Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in this policy, up to and including suspension and a recommendation for expulsion. Violators of this policy may also be required to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program. The Superintendent shall propose and the Board of Education shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

The Board of Education shall incorporate into the curriculum at all levels education pertaining to potential inhalant abuse which is appropriate for students given their age, maturity, and grade level. Inhalant abuse educational programs/information for parents/guardians will be offered in a manner convenient to parents/guardians.

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Performance-Enhancing Drugs (including food supplements)

In addition to the prohibition pertaining to alcohol, drugs, tobacco and inhalants, the Board of Education prohibits the use of performance-enhancing drugs, including anabolic steroids and food supplements, including Creatine, by students involved in school-related athletics or any co-curricular or extracurricular school activity/program, other than use for a valid medical purpose as documented by a physician. Bodybuilding and enhancement of athletic ability and performance are not considered valid medical purposes.

School personnel and coaches will not dispense any drugs, medication or food supplements except as in compliance with Connecticut State law, District policy and as prescribed by a student's physician, dentist, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.

Students shall be made aware of the dangers of steroid abuse and that such abuse, unauthorized possession, purchase, or sale will subject them to disciplinary action and CIAC sanctions. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The Superintendent shall propose, and the Board of Education shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this section is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

It is the expectation of the Board that District schools, as members of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Association (CIAC), require all athletes playing in CIAC-controlled sports to be chemical free.

Tobacco Use by Students

There shall be no smoking or any other unauthorized use or possession of tobacco by students in any school building or school vehicle at any time or on any school grounds during the school day, or at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of designated school personnel. Such as when the student is at any school function, extracurricular event, field trip, or school related activity such as a work-study program. An ongoing program of student support and counseling will be offered to provide support for students who wish to break the smoking habit. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The Superintendent shall propose and the Board of Education shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar actions are treated consistently.

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- (cf. 5114 – Suspension/Expulsion)
- (cf. 5131 – Conduct)
- (cf. 5131.61 – Inhalant Abuse)
- (cf. 5131.62 – Steroid Use)
- (cf. 5131.612 – Surrender of Physical Evidence Obtained from Students)
- (cf. 5131.8 – Out of School Grounds Misconduct)
- (cf. 5131.92 – Corporal Punishment)
- (cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment)
- (cf. 5145.12 – Search and Seizure)
- (cf. 5145.121 – Vehicle Searches on School Grounds)
- (cf. 5145.122 – Use of Dogs to Search School Property)
- (cf. 5145.124 – Breathalyzer Testing)
- (cf. 5145.125 – Drug Testing-Extracurricular Activities)
- (cf. 6164.11 – Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 1-21b Smoking prohibited in certain places
- 10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.
- 10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student.
- Surrender or physical evidence obtained from students.
- 10-220b Policy statement on drugs
- 10-221(d) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures re sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs
- 21a-240 Definitions dependency producing drugs.
- 21a -240(8) Definitions “Controlled Drugs,” dependency producing drugs
- 21a-240(9) Definitions “controlled substance”
- 21a-243 Regulation re schedules of controlled substances.
- 53-198 Smoking in motor buses, railroad cars and school buses
- Federal Regulation 34 CFR art 85 Drug-free Schools & Communities Act
- 20 U.S.C. Section 7181 et. seq., No Child Left Behind Act
- New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
- Veronia School District 47J v. Acton*, 515 U.S. 646
- (1995) *Board of Education of Independent School District No 92 of Pottawatomie County v. Earls* 01-332 U.S. (2002)

Administrative Procedures to Policy #5131.6
Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances)

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

In accordance with the mandate of school policy #5144 the following administrative procedures are adopted regarding the use and/or possession of drugs or alcohol by students on school property, on school transportation or at school-supervised activities. School policy and practice dictates that parents be contacted as soon as possible in all cases of suspected drug and/or alcohol involvement.

II. PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

- A. No student in the Regional School District No. 7 School System shall have in his or her possession while on school property or at school-supervised activities any controlled drugs or alcohol. Controlled drugs include any amphetamine-type, barbiturate-type, cannabis-type, cocaine-type, hallucinogenic-type, morphine-type drugs, other stimulant and depressant drugs, and any other drug which may be classified as a controlled drug by State law.
- B. The disciplinary sanctions listed below are designed to discourage unauthorized possession and/or use of drugs or alcohol within the school setting (all school supervised activities including, but not limited to, field trips, bus transportation, and the like) and to maintain the safety and well-being of the student body. In all cases due process will be followed as stipulated in Policy #5114-Pupil Suspension and Expulsion.
1. If it is determined that a student is in possession of or under the influence of controlled drugs or alcohol or is using such drugs or alcohol within the school setting, the following steps will be taken:
 - (a) Suspension from school of the student for up to 10 days and notification of parents if, after investigation, a student has been found to have used or to be under the influence of controlled drugs or alcohol but has not been found to be in possession.
 - (b) Suspension from school for up to ten (10) days and notification of parents, if a student possesses alcohol or controlled drugs. In addition, in the case of controlled drugs, appropriate law enforcement agencies will be notified.

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- (c) Suspension from school for ten (10) days and notification of parents and police authorities if a student is found to be have been involved in drug or alcohol dealing. During the period of suspension, the student and his or her parent/guardian must participate in a hearing before the Superintendent of Schools regarding the issue of expulsion procedures and/or reinstatement to school.
 - (d) Recommend referral to an agency licensed to assess and treat drug, including alcohol, abuse in accordance with Section 10-221(d) of the Connecticut State Statutes.
 - 2. A student who seeks help for a drug or alcohol problem may be treated as a medical problem without the administration of disciplinary action.
 - 3. Violation(s) of the school policy on drugs and alcohol may result in an expulsion hearing.
- C. The administration of a school is required to retain control over student lockers and desks within a school. See Administrative Procedures for Search and Seizure. Consequently, the chief administrative officer of the school or his designee is authorized to search the locker or desk of any student if such officer has a reasonable belief that controlled drugs or alcohol will be found therein.

III. CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. Students and staff should recognize there are legal limits as to what constitutes professional or confidential information given to a Regional School District No. 7 staff member and should be aware of Administrative Procedures to Policy #5125 - Student Records.
- B. If a student is questioned by police officers on school premises regarding the possible commission of a crime involving drugs or alcohol, a school administrator shall be present at such questioning and, when possible, parents of any student under the age of 18 shall be notified that such police questioning is about to take place. See Administrative Procedures for Police Involvement.

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IV. PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH KNOWN CASES OF DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE

Drug or alcohol use by students which can be substantiated without violation of a professional employee's right to decline to disclose any information acquired through a professional communication should be brought to the attention of the school administration.

- A. In the event of an emergency, the school nurse after rendering immediate care shall notify the parents of any student under age of 18 and/or the student's family physician. The orders of the family physician will then be implemented by the nurse. In the absence of the family physician, the school nurse will render any necessary care. If in the professional judgment of the nurse, it is necessary, the emergency room of the nearest hospital will be notified and transportation arranged for the student's removal to the hospital by parents and/or ambulance service.
- B. Students who appear to be intoxicated or comatose or who evidence signs of drug overdose of any kind shall be handled as a medical emergency. In addition, immediate notification will be given to the administration so that the appropriate investigation may be conducted. Specific medical information must be maintained as confidential except where disclosure is necessary to protect the health of the individual. No statement of any kind will be made to representatives of the news media by any individual without prior consultation with the Superintendent of Schools or his designee.
- C. The parents of any student under the age of 18 shall be notified in all cases where drug or alcohol use has been ascertained to be the cause of the student's ailment.

V. SCHOOL CURRICULUM

All students shall be made aware of the school policies and procedures in dealing with in-school drug use and alcohol abuse. Students need to know the penalties they face for violations. Discussion of legal implications of drug use and alcohol abuse will be included.

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AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

ALANON & ALATEEN - 1-800-344-2666. Support services for the families of alcoholics.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - 1-800-829-1863. Call for local schedules of meetings and programs.

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES, 482-5558 - Fee: Sliding scale fee.

CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL - CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC- 489-3391 – Sliding scale fee.

COCAINE HOTLINE - 1-800-262-2463

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (DCF), 482-0669; Emergency Crisis. 1-800-842-2288.

FAMILY INTERVENTION CENTER, Waterbury, 1-203-753-2153 - Evaluation with family, teen, and child forums. Individual, marital, family, and group therapy. Treatment programs.

HELP INC., Waterbury. 1-203-756-8984. Outpatient and inpatient services for drug and alcohol misuse and abuse. Ages 16 and up. No fee.

HOUSATONIC YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU – (860) 824-4720.

INFO-LINE - Information and Referral 1-800-203-1234. No fee.

MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) - 1-203-350-6233. For victims and/or significant others injured/killed by drunk driving. No fee.

McCALL FOUNDATION, INC. – 738-1616/496-2100. 1-800-801-3784. Outpatient Alcohol and drug counseling for adolescents. Sliding scale fee.

NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE - 1-800-342-2437.

NORTHWEST CENTER FOR FAMILY SERVICE AND MENTAL HEALTH (formerly Housatonic Mental Health)-Winsted 379-3337; Torrington 482-8561; Lakeville 435-2529

NORTHWEST CONNECICUT AIDS PROJECT, Torrington. 482-1596. (Beyond local area - 1-800-381-AIDS). Information, counseling, and testing for HIV. Youth and Community Educators available. No fee.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY PROJECT 489-3798, Crisis: 482-7133. Sexual assault services for all ages, either gender.

WINCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU - 379-0708, Winsted YMCA. After hours, 1-800-512-1129.

YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

YOUR CLERGY

NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL has available to its students and families a social worker, a psychologist, guidance counselors and a registered nurse.

PRIVATE THERAPISTS - See Yellow Pages under "Marriage, Family, Child and Individual Counselors."

**All 1-800-xxx-xxxx are toll free.

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