

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

NEPN/NSBA Code: JICH

The teachers, coaches, administrators and the school board are truly concerned with the student as a whole person and his/her overall growth and development. Chemical dependency is recognized as a treatable disease which may interfere with the learning process, create severe interpersonal problems and cause physical and emotional suffering to the user as well as to family and close associates. Substance use/abuse may permeate all facets of the community. Therefore, the Fayette School Department will cooperate with effective organizations to help detect, diagnose and treat affected students. The board unequivocally endorses the philosophy that the schools should be free from the detrimental effects of tobacco, illicit drugs and alcohol.

In order to ensure the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the safety, health and well-being of students, the school board endorses a substance abuse policy which will aid students to abstain from the use of alcohol and drugs (including tobacco products), provide for early intervention when use is detected, corrective disciplinary sanctions when necessary, and aftercare support as appropriate. Compliance with the school unit's standards of conduct related to substance abuse is mandatory.

Prevention

The Fayette School Department will provide students with information and activities focused on prevention of the use of alcohol and drugs (including tobacco products). Programs are to be provided that teach students that using illicit drugs, tobacco products, and alcohol is wrong and harmful. The legal, social and health consequences of drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse are to be addressed. Students are to be taught how to resist peer pressure.

Intervention

The Fayette School Department will establish and provide assistance, through a team approach, to intervene with students who are chemically involved. Students are to be assisted in addressing their harmful involvements with chemicals and in continuing in their educational programs. Moreover, information and referral shall be provided, as appropriate, to aid involved students in connecting with community agencies for drug and alcohol use treatment.

Rules and Sanctions

No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage or fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor. No student shall possess, purchase or use any cigarettes, cigarette paper or tobacco products (Public Law 470 of the 1995 Statute). Nor shall a student unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid or any other controlled substance, unless under a physician's care (as defined in schedules I through V of section 202 of the federal Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S. C., section 812]; by regulation at 21 C.F.R., 1300. 11 through 1300.15; and in Maine's Title 17-A MRSA, section 1101), before, during and after school hours, at school or in any other school system location, defined as follows:

School system location means in any school building or on any school premises; in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school system.

A student who violates the terms of this policy may be disciplined, including suspension or expulsion from school, at the appropriate discretion of the administration and the board, and in accordance with sanctions detailed in school unit regulations. A student may be referred to law enforcement authorities for investigation and/or prosecution.

In addition, a student who violates the terms of this policy shall be given the opportunity to receive intervention services as described above. Failure to cooperate shall result in full imposition of disciplinary sanctions. School staff shall maintain close cooperation with public medical, legal and law enforcement agencies, as well as parents, in the prevention of drug abuse and in the rehabilitation of drug users.

Implementation

The superintendent shall be responsible for the development and promulgation of appropriate curricula, programs and regulations to implement this policy.

Communication

This policy and appropriate related information are to be distributed to students and parents annually through means selected by the administration.

Review

The superintendent is to oversee a biennial review of the policy and regulations to determine the programs' effectiveness, to implement changes to programs, policy and regulations, as needed, and to ensure that disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

Legal Reference: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT 21 U.S.C., SEC . 812)
SCHED. I-V, SEC. 202 TITLE 17-A MRSA, SEC. 1101 21 C.F.R.,
1300.11 - 1300.15 FED. P. L. 101-226
Title 22 MRSA 1578
Public law 470 of the 1995 Statute

Cross Reference: GBEC - DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE
ADC - TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS

Adopted: 11-16-95

Revised: 4-1-99