

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

The RSU # 14 Board of Directors and staff of RSU # 14 support a safe and healthy learning environment for students which 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 three-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.

Prohibited Conduct

No student shall distribute, attempt to sell or distribute, solicit, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor. Nor shall a student manufacture, distribute, attempt to sell or distribute, solicit, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, or any other controlled substance defined in federal and state laws/regulations, any “new” substance that is designed to have psychoactive effects with or without ingredients that are or are not controlled or scheduled by Federal or State laws, any look-alike substance, prescription drugs, or any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance. Nor shall a student use any substance which is used to purposefully affect or change a student’s mental, physical, or behavior pattern, including, but not limited to, volatile materials such as glue, paint, or aerosols (when possessed for the purpose of inhalation).

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.

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. **Students who participate in athletics and co-curricular activities are subject to additional rules and sanctions as described in the RSU # 14 Parent/Student Athletic/Co-Curricular Guide.**

Prevention/Education

RSU # 14 will provide students with appropriate information and activities focused on educating students about drugs and alcohol and preventing their use. Programs shall teach students that the use 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 abuse.

Intervention

RSU # 14 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

RSU # 14 SUBSTANCE ABUSE REGULATIONS**DEFINITIONS:**

Drugs: The term “drug” or “drugs” shall mean any substance not prescribed by a physician for the particular student using or possessing it that can influence one’s level of consciousness or awareness including, without limitation, any scheduled drug as defined in Title 17-A, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Chapter 45. (This may include substances referred to as look-alike drugs, designer drugs, over-the-counter drugs or prescription drugs.)

Clinical Assessment: Evaluation of a student’s level of chemical use by a treatment facility or provider.

Non-clinical Assessment: Evaluation of a student’s chemical use by school personnel.

Drug & Alcohol Response Team/D.A.R.T.: A multi-disciplinary team, ideally composed of an administrator, the student’s guidance counselor, a school social worker, the school nurse, a staff member, if appropriate, and others as deemed necessary for special cases. One member of the D.A.R.T. will be designated as the student’s case manager.

PROCEDURES:

Since the age or the developmental stage of students need to be considered in assisting them with substance abuse issues, the following procedures will be followed for the grade levels indicated:

I. ELEMENTARY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**A. Disciplinary Action/Violation of Policy****1. Possession/Use - First Offense**

- a. verification/confiscation
- b. administrator meets with student
- c. disciplinary action as appropriate, i.e.
 - out of school suspension for one to ten days
 - after-school detention
 - other disciplinary procedures
- d. notify parent/guardian and Superintendent; notify police if appropriate.
- e. meet with Drug & Alcohol Response Team
- f. provide parents with list of community resources
- g. student will follow recommendation of D.A.R.T., or they will face a possible hearing with School Board for consideration of expulsion

2. Possession/Use Second or Subsequent Offense

- a. verification/confiscation
- b. administrator meets with student
- c. disciplinary action as appropriate, i.e.
 - out of school suspension for one to ten days;
 - after-school detention;
 - other disciplinary procedures
- d. notify parent/guardian and Superintendent; notify police if appropriate
- e. meet with Drug & Alcohol Response Team.
- f. provide parents with list of community resources
- g. student will follow recommendation of D.A.R.T., or they will face a possible hearing with School Board for consideration of expulsion
- h. call an IEP if the child is a special education student
- i. possible hearing before School Board to:
 - consider possible expulsion, and
 - verify treatment before re-entry into regular education program

- j. notify police, and/or DHS if appropriate.

3. Furnishing and/or Selling / Soliciting / Attempting to Sell or Furnish

- a. verification/confiscation
- b. administrator meets with student
- c. disciplinary action as appropriate, i.e.
 - out of school suspension for one to ten days
 - other disciplinary procedures
- d. notify parent/guardian, Superintendent and police
- e. meet with Drug & Alcohol Response Team
- f. provide parents with list of community resources
- g. student will follow recommendation of D.A.R.T., or they will face a possible hearing with School Board for consideration of expulsion
- h. refer to Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services, if appropriate
- i. call an IEP if the child is a special education student
- j. possible hearing before School Board to:
 - consider possible expulsion, and
 - verify treatment before re-entry into regular education program.

B. Voluntary Referral/No Violation of School Policy

1. Concerned Person

- a. Discuss concerns with school counselor or social worker, who then notifies administration of the incident/concern
- b. School counselor or social worker who received the information then convenes a meeting of the Drug & Alcohol Response Team
- c. An appointed member of the D.A.R.T. notifies parents/guardian
- d. Follow recommendations generated in Step B

2. Self-Referral

- a. Person receiving referral information consults with school counselor or social worker
- b. School counselor or social worker then notifies administration of the incident/concern and/or convenes a meeting of the Drug & Alcohol Response Team, if appropriate
- c. D.A.R.T. develops a plan of action which may include referral for a substance abuse assessment
- d. Person appointed by D.A.R.T. will notify parent/guardian, if appropriate
- e. Follow recommendations generated in Step C

II. MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

A. Disciplinary Action/Violation of School Policy

1. Possession/Use -- First Offense

- a. Administrator meets with student
- b. Verify/confiscate substance when possible
- c. Notify parent/guardian. Notify Superintendent and police if appropriate.
- d. Suspend student from school for 1-10 days, if verified
- e. During suspension, administrator will convene a meeting of the Drug & Alcohol Response Team (D.A.R.T.)
- f. D.A.R.T. develops a plan of action which may include referral for a substance abuse assessment, as well as other specific recommendations for drug awareness education and ongoing support, as appropriate
- g. Upon returning to school, the student, must:
 - meet criteria for drug education as recommended by the D.A.R.T.
 - remain engaged in any longer-term treatment recommended by the a chemical abuse counselor
 - maintain regular contact with guidance counselor or school social worker

- maintain proper attitude, behavior and attendance
 - follow recommendations of the D.A.R.T. or face a possible hearing with the School Board for consideration of expulsion
- h. The D.A.R.T. will provide parents with a list of community resources and recommend that they attend an educational program on drug and alcohol abuse

2. Possession/Use – Second or Subsequent Offense

- a. Administrator meets with student
- b. Verify violation/confiscate substance if possible
- c. Notify parent/guardian and Superintendent; Notify police if appropriate
- d. Suspend student from school for ten days
- e. During suspension, administrator will convene a meeting of the D.A.R.T.
- f. D.A.R.T. develops a plan of action, which **will** include referral to a chemical abuse counselor, as well as other specific recommendations for drug awareness education and ongoing support, as appropriate
- g. Refer to School Board for expulsion hearing. Upon expelling a student, the School Board will specify conditions for return that will serve as satisfactory evidence that similar behaviors will not recur.
- h. Student meets chemical abuse counselor
- i. Parents meet with administrator, school counselor or social worker and chemical abuse counselor, as appropriate, to develop an appropriate action plan and follow-up plan.

3. Furnishing/Selling or Soliciting

- a. Confiscate substance/verify incident
- b. Administrator meets with student
- c. Notify parent/guardian, Superintendent and police
- d. Suspend student from school for ten days
- e. During suspension, administrator will convene a meeting of the D.A.R.T which will consider possible referral for a substance abuse screening/evaluation and other appropriate recommendations
- f. Refer to the School Board for expulsion hearing. Upon expelling a student, the School Board will specify conditions for return that will serve as satisfactory evidence that similar behaviors will not recur.

B. Concerned Person / Self-Referral / No Violation of School Policy

1. Concerned Person

- a. Discuss concerns with school counselor or social worker
- b. School counselor or social worker who received the information then convenes a meeting of the Drug & Alcohol Response Team.
- c. D.A.R.T. evaluates the concerns and determines need for follow up screening/evaluation by a chemical abuse counselor, formulates recommendations, and develops a plan of action.
- d. An appointed member of the D.A.R.T. notifies parents/guardian.

2. Self Referral

- a. Person receiving referral information consults with school counselor or social worker
- b. School counselor or social worker who received the information, with the student's consent, may then convene a meeting of the Drug & Alcohol Response Team, or alternatively, they may refer the student directly to a chemical abuse counselor, if appropriate
- c. The chemical abuse counselor meets with the student to conduct assessment, as appropriate, and make recommendations

- d. The chemical abuse counselor may, with informed written consent of the student, discuss the student's case with the D.A.R.T. for further recommendations, which may include parent notification.
- e. The chemical abuse counselor and student develop an action plan.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Chemical dependence is a disease; students receiving treatment will be given the same support as a student recovering from any other condition. All reasonable efforts will be made to maintain the confidentiality of records or of the identity of concerned persons. Drug & Alcohol Response Team (D.A.R.T.) records will be kept by the school counselor or social worker in a central location in each building.

All students are informed about available resources and are encouraged to participate in programs at any time with or without referral from the D.A.R.T.

In the case of a medical emergency when a student has overdosed on drugs or alcohol, the school nurse will refer to the appropriate community resource. The administrator will follow disciplinary action upon the student's return to school.

If a student receiving special education services requires intervention because of a substance abuse problem, the D.A.R.T. will work with the Special Education Department to insure continuation of his/her educational program.

This substance abuse policy will be made a part of the student handbook which is given to every student at the start of each new school year. Also in the handbook will be notification to parents and standards of conduct is mandatory.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE REGULATIONS FOR ATHLETIC & CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS**Procedures**

Athletics / Co-Curricular program policy is separate from, yet consistent with, general school rules and procedures. When a disciplinary referral occurs as a result of a violation in school or at a school-related function, the administrative procedures defined in the current RSU # 14 Drug & Alcohol Use by Students Policy, as well as those defined in the athletic / co-curricular policy, will be followed. The Athletic Substance Abuse Policy also pertains to off-campus activities. A sports season is defined as the period from the first day of tryouts to the end of the sport banquet or event.

Infractions will be accumulated from the time a student enters high school until they receive their diploma.

A. Disciplinary Referrals**1. Possession/Use – First Offense**

- a. verify incident by school official
- b. notify administration of incident
- c. administration to follow normal administrative procedures
- d. discuss concerns with student
- e. inform parent/guardian
- f. suspend student for three athletic/co-curricular events or for three weeks, whichever is greater (an event is considered any officially sanctioned match/game/contest)
- g. require student to meet with a substance abuse counselor for assessment and follow the counselor's recommendations. Failure to comply may lead to suspension for the season, or 60 school calendar days.
- h. encourage parents to attend an educational program on abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

2. Possession/Use – Second Offense

- a. verify and discuss the incident with student
- b. notify administration of incident
- c. administration to follow normal administrative procedures
- d. notify parent, and Superintendent and police, if appropriate
- e. suspend for sixty (60) school calendar days
- f. require an assessment before participation in another team sport or co-curricular activity
- g. require student to attend an educational group and/or other recommended services, as determined by the DART Team, before participating in another team sport/co-curricular event
- h. Encourage parents to attend an educational program on abuse of alcohol and other drugs

3. Possession/Use – Third Offense

The student will be dismissed from any athletic/co-curricular participation for one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction.

4. Selling or Furnishing or Soliciting

- a. verify and notify administration of incident
- b. administration to follow normal administrative procedures
- c. notify parent/guardian, Superintendent and police
- d. suspend (from athletics / co-curricular) for the remainder of the year

- e. require a non-clinical assessment before student can participate in other activities
- f. student to attend an educational group and/or follow other recommendations of the D.A.R.T.
- g. recommend parents attend an educational program on drugs and alcohol

B. Concerned Person / Self Referrals / No Violation of School Policy

1. Concerned Person

- a. Consult with coach, administrator, school counselor, or social worker, or other appropriate personnel, to evaluate student's behavior
- b. Meet with student to establish relationship and discuss concerns over use (if student admits problem, follow self referral procedure)
- c. Review policy and procedures
- d. School counselor or social worker who received the information then convenes a meeting of the Drug & Alcohol Response Team.
- e. D.A.R.T. evaluates the concerns and determines need for follow up screening/evaluation by a chemical abuse counselor, formulates recommendations, and develops a plan of action.
- f. An appointed member of the D.A.R.T. notifies parents/guardian.

2. Self Referral

- a. Person receiving referral information consults with school counselor or social worker
- b. School counselor or social worker who received the information, with the student's consent, may then convene a meeting of the Drug & Alcohol Response Team, or alternatively, they may refer the student directly to a chemical abuse counselor, if appropriate
- c. The chemical abuse counselor meets with the student to conduct assessment, as appropriate, and make recommendations
- d. The chemical abuse counselor may, with informed written consent of the student, discuss the student's case with the D.A.R.T. for further recommendations, which may include parent notification.
- e. The chemical abuse counselor and student develop an action plan.

First Reading _____ August 10, 2011 _____

Second Reading _____ August 24, 2011 _____