

M.S.A.D. #56 DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS - PROCEDURES

The Board of Directors for M.S.A.D. #56 recognizes chemical use as a major health problem for today's youth and views chemical dependency as a treatable disease.

Definition of chemical - Any substance which, when taken into the body in any form, is known to cause changes in mental, physical, or behavioral patterns. "Chemical" shall include but not be limited to prescription drugs, look-a-like drugs, drug paraphernalia, non-prescription drugs, tobacco products, alcohol, hydrocarbons and aerosols.

Chemical Use and Abuse By Students:

Student health problems are primarily the responsibility of the parents or guardians. However, the school and community share in that responsibility because chemical health problems often affect learning and development.

The Board of Directors views the welfare and safety of the student body to be of paramount importance. It recognizes that using punitive measures as the sole means of addressing the problem of chemical use usually masks rather than eliminates it. In so far as applicable statutes allow, all contacts with involved individuals will be treated in strictest confidence and the medical records of students involved with chemical use will be subject to the same District policies as other medical and school records.

ROLE OF THE SCHOOL STAFF

1. Disciplinary Action - Any staff member who has reasonable basis to suspect any student of possession, use or selling a prohibited substance has the responsibility to:
 - A. take immediate action to secure the health and safety of the involved student(s);
 - B. report the case immediately to the building administrator.

2. Voluntary Referral - Any staff member who is approached by a student who is seeking help shall maintain confidentiality of the student and refer her/him to the School Substance Abuse Counselor. A staff member may respond to a student seeking help with a chemical issue without being compelled to use the information in a disciplinary manner.

3. Any staff member who knows of or hears of any party where alcohol, drugs, or substance purported to be a drug, will be consumed by minors, shall report it to the Principal. The principal will share this information with the appropriate authorities and agencies in accordance with Sections 2051, 2052, and 2058 of the Maine State Liquor Laws.

STUDENT POLICY

1. Advertising/Encouraging Chemical Use/Abuse

In order to provide a healthy climate in the school and to discourage the use and abuse of substances, the following procedures shall be in place.

Accessories or articles of clothing that advertise chemicals (as defined above) and/or their use or abuse shall be prohibited in school. Students violating this policy will be referred to the principal for action.

2. Students K-5 Chemical Use

Students are prohibited from using, possessing, giving, buying or selling chemicals while in school, on the school grounds, and at school functions. The handling of prescription drugs during school time is covered under Board of Directors policy JHCD.

A. K - 5 Disciplinary Action Procedures

1. Type One: Possession/Use

a. First offense

- (1) Confiscate, verify and seek medical attention as necessary.
- (2) Administrator meets with student.
- (3) Administrator notifies and meets with parent/guardian.
- (4) Students under the influence of chemicals will be dismissed from school in the supervision of a parent/guardian.
- (5) Disciplinary action will be 3 days in-school suspension.
- (6) Notify superintendent and police.
- (7) Student meets with guidance counselor who will make referral to appropriate services as necessary.

b. Second offense

- (1) Confiscate, verify and seek medical attention as necessary.
- (2) Administrator meets with student.
- (3) Administrator notifies and meets with parent/guardian.
- (4) Students under the influence of chemicals will be dismissed from school in the supervision of a parent/guardian.
- (5) Five day out of school suspension.
- (6) Notify superintendent and police.
- (7) Parent and student must be referred to outside agency for evaluation and/or intervention.

2. Type two: Furnishing and/or Selling

- a. First offense
 - (1) Confiscate and verify.
 - (2) Administrator meets with student and notifies parent/guardian.
 - (3) Notify superintendent and police.
 - (4) Refer to guidance/SAT.
 - (5) Five day out of school suspension.
- b. Second offense
 - (1) Confiscate and verify.
 - (2) Administrator meets with student and notifies parent/guardian.
 - (3) Notify superintendent and police.
 - (4) Refer to guidance/SAT.
 - (5) Ten day out of school suspension.
 - (6) Meeting by parent/guardian and student with Superintendent shall occur prior to return to school.

3. Students 6-12 - Chemical Use

Students are prohibited from using, possessing, giving, buying or selling chemicals while in school, on the school grounds, and at school functions. The handling of prescription drugs during school time is covered under Board of Directors policy JHCD.

A. High School/Middle School Disciplinary Action Procedures

1. Type One: Possession/Use

a. First offense

- (1) Confiscate, verify and arrange for student safety.
- (2) Administrator meet with student and notifies parent/guardian.
- (3) Notify superintendent, and police.
- (4) Five day out of school suspension.
- (5) Appointment with school substance abuse counselor immediately upon return to school.
- (6) Follow recommendation of school substance abuse counselor/SAT, which may include referral to appropriate services as necessary.
- (7) If the offense is for tobacco, the student will also participate in 5 smoking cessation classes.

b. Second Offense: Possession/Use

- (1) Confiscate, verify and arrange for student safety.
- (2) Administrator meet with student and notifies parent/guardian.
- (3) Notify superintendent and police.
- (4) 10 day out of school suspension and student must be assessed by a community based licensed substance abuse counselor at the expense of the parent/guardian.

(5) Student shall follow recommendation(s) of counselor.

(6) If student is not assessed within 10 school days, a meeting by the parent/guardian and student with the Superintendent shall occur prior to the return to school.

Note: If parents do not seek assistance for the student, notify D.H.S.

(7) If the offense is for tobacco, the student will participate in 5 smoking cessation classes.

c. Third and Subsequent Offense: Possession/Use

(1) Confiscate, verify and arrange for student safety.

(2) Administrator meets with student and notifies parent/guardian.

(3) Notify superintendent and police.

(4) 10 day out of school suspension with recommendation to Superintendent to consider expulsion by the Board of Directors.

(5) If there is no proof of a formal treatment plan, recommend to Superintendent to consider expulsion by the Board of Directors.

(6) Student shall follow recommendation(s) of counselor.

Note: If parents do not seek assistance for the student, notify D.H.S.

(7) If the offense is for tobacco, the student will also participate in 5 smoking cessation classes.

2. Type Two: Furnishing/Selling

a. First offense

(1) Confiscate substance.

(2) Administrator meet with student.

(3) Administrator meets with parent/guardian.

(4) Notify superintendent and police.

(5) Meet with school substance abuse counselor/SAT.

(6) Suspend for 10 days - out of school.

(7) Referral to formal substance abuse evaluation at parent's expense.

b. Second offense

(1) Confiscate substance.

(2) Administrator meet with student.

(3) Administrator meets with parent/guardian.

(4) Notify superintendent and police.

(5) Meet with school substance abuse counselor/SAT.

(6) Suspend for 10 days - out of school.

(7) Recommendation to Superintendent to consider expulsion by the Board of Directors.

ADOPTED: November 12, 1991

REVISED: January 12, 1992
June 13, 1995
October 8, 1996

Code changed: 9/17/03 per the Policy Committee.