

STUDENTS 6164

Drug and Alcohol Use By Students

Policy Statement

The Board is required by Connecticut law to prescribe rules for the management and discipline of its schools. In keeping with this mandate, the use, sale, distribution or possession of controlled drugs, controlled substances or drug paraphernalia, as defined in C.G.S. Section 21a-240, alcohol, (or) tobacco, or performance enhancing substances on or off school property or during any school sponsored activity is prohibited. It shall be the policy of the Board to take positive action through education, counseling, discipline, parental involvement, medical referral, and law enforcement referral, as appropriate, in the handling of incidents in the schools involving the possession, distribution, sale or use of substances that affect behavior.

Each school having student athletic teams shall notify parents and student athletes of this policy and of the student athletic guidelines particular to that school annually.

Definitions

(1) **Controlled Drugs:** means those drugs which contain any quantity of a substance which has been designated as subject to the federal Controlled Substances Act, or which has been designated as a depressant or stimulant drug pursuant to federal food and drug laws, or which has been designated by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to C.G.S. Section 21a-243, as having a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect upon the higher functions of the central nervous system and as having a tendency to promote abuse or psychological or physiological dependence, or both. Such controlled drugs are classifiable as amphetamine-type, barbiturate-type, cannabis-type, cocaine-type, hallucinogenic, morphine-type and other stimulant and depressant drugs. C.G.S. Section 21a-240(8).

(2) **Controlled Substances:** means a drug, substance or immediate precursor in schedules I to V, inclusive, of the Connecticut controlled substance scheduling regulations adopted pursuant to C.G.S. Section 21a-243. C.G.S. Section 21a-240(9).

(3) **Performance Enhancing Substances:** means but are not limited to anabolic agents, androgenic agents, diuretics, peptide hormones and analogues, blood doping which is the intravenous injection of whole blood, packed red blood cells, or blood substitutes.

(4) **Professional Communication:** any communication made privately and in confidence by a student to a professional employee of such student's school in the course of the professional employee's employment. C.G.S. Section 10-154a(a)(4).

(5) **Professional Employee:** means a person employed by a school who "(A) holds a certificate from the State Board of Education, (B) is a member of a faculty where certification is not required, (C) is an administration officer of a school, or (D) is a registered nurse employed by or assigned to a school." C.G.S. Section 10-154a(a)(2).

(6) **Drug Paraphernalia:** means any equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use or designated for use in planting, propagating, cultivating,

growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing or concealing, or injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing controlled drugs or controlled substances into the human body, including but not limited to all items specified in C.G.S. Section 21a-240(20)(A), such as "bongs," pipes, "roach clips," miniature cocaine spoons, crack cocaine vials, tobacco rolling papers, and any object or container used, intended or designed for use in storing, concealing, possessing, distributing or selling controlled drugs or controlled substances. C.G.S. Section 21a-240(20)(A).

(7) **Pupil Services Team:** means a team whose members may include a building principal, school nurse, school social worker, school psychologist and/or school counselor.

Procedures

(1) Emergencies.

If an emergency situation results from drug or alcohol use, the student shall be sent to the school nurse or medical advisor immediately. The parent or designated responsible person will be notified.

(2) Prescribed Medications.

The parent or guardian of any student who is required to take any prescribed medication during the school day shall so inform the school nurse or the person designated to act in the absence of a nurse. Such prescribed medication will then be administered to the student under the supervision of the school nurse or designee in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-212a and the applicable regulations and in accordance with any Board policies and regulations concerning medication administration.

Students taking improper amounts of a prescribed medication, or taking a prescribed medication without proper notification and supervision of the school nurse or designee will be subject to the procedures for improper drug or alcohol use outlined in this policy.

(3) Voluntary Disclosure of Drug/Alcohol Problem (Self-Referral).

The following procedures will be followed when a student privately, and in confidence, discloses to a professional employee in a professional communication information concerning the student's use, possession, distribution or sale of a controlled drug, controlled substance, alcohol, or tobacco.

(a) Professional employees are permitted, in their professional judgment, to disclose any information acquired through a professional communication with a student, when such information concerns alcohol or drug abuse or any alcohol or drug problem of such student. In no event, however, will they be required to do so. C.G.S. Section 10-154a(b).

(b) Any physical evidence obtained from such student through a professional communication indicating that a crime has been or is being committed by the student must be turned over to school administrators or law enforcement officials as soon as possible, but no later than two

calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Employees are encouraged to contact the school administrator immediately upon obtaining physical evidence. In no case, however, will such employee be required to disclose the name of the student from whom the evidence was obtained. C.G.S. Section 10-154a(b).

(c) Any professional employee who has received a professional communication from a student may obtain advice and information concerning appropriate resources and refer the student accordingly, subject to the rights of the professional employee as described in paragraph (a) above.

(d) If a student consents to disclosure of a professional communication concerning the student's alcohol or drug problem, or if the professional employee deems disclosure to be appropriate, the professional employee should report the student's name and problem to the school's building administrator or designee and the Pupil Services Team.

(e) If confirmation of drug use is required under the circumstances, the professional employee will send the student to the school nurse or medical advisor. The parent or designated responsible will then be notified.

(4) Involuntary Disclosure or discovery of Drug/Alcohol Problems.

When a professional employee obtains information related to a student who, on or off school grounds or at a school sponsored activity, is under the influence of or possesses, uses, dispenses, distributes, administers, sells or aids in the procurement of a controlled drug, controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or tobacco, from a source other than the student's confidential disclosure, that information is considered to be involuntarily disclosed. In this event, the following procedures will apply.

(a) The professional employee will immediately report the information to the building administrator or designee. The building administrator or designee will then contact the school's Pupil Services Team.

(b) Any physical evidence (for example, alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia) obtained from a student indicating that a crime has been or is being committed by the student must be turned over to the building administrator or designee or to law enforcement officials as soon as possible, but no later than within two calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. C.G.S. Section 10-154a(b). Because such evidence was not obtained through a professional communication, the name of the student must be disclosed to the building administrator or designee.

(c) Search and Seizure of Students and/or Possessions: A professional employee who reasonably suspects that a student is violating a state/federal law or a school substance abuse policy must immediately report his/her suspicion to the building administrator or designee. The building administrator or designee may then search a student's person or possessions connected to that person, in accordance with the Board's policies and regulations if he/she has reasonable suspicion from the inception of the search that the student has violated or is violating either the law of a school substance abuse policy.

Any physical evidence obtained in the search of a student, or a student's possessions, indicating that the student is violating or has violated a state or federal law must be turned over to the law enforcement officials as soon as possible, but not later than within three calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. C.G.S. Section 10-154a©. All school employees are encouraged to contact the school administration immediately upon obtaining physical evidence.

(5) Consequences for the Use, Sale, Distribution or Possession of controlled Drugs, Controlled Substances, or Alcohol or Tobacco:

(a) Any student in the Manchester Public Schools using, possessing, manufacturing, distributing, selling or aiding in the procurement of controlled drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, (or) tobacco, or performance enhancing substances either on or off school property, or at a school-sponsored activity are subject to discipline up to and including expulsion pursuant to the Board's student discipline policy. (Refer to Discipline Policy #5144.)

(b) Student athletes may incur CIAC imposed sanctions beyond those imposed by the Board.

(c) Students found to be in violation of this policy may be referred by the building administrator to an appropriate agency licensed to assess and treat drug and alcohol involved individuals. In such event, assessment and treatment costs will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

(d) A meeting may be scheduled with the pupil services team for the purpose of discussing the school's drug and alcohol policy with the student and parent or guardian.

(e) Law enforcement officials may be contacted by the building administrator in the case of suspected involvement in the use, sale or distribution of controlled drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol, or tobacco.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

Section 10-154a

Section 10-212a

Section 21a-240

Section 21a-243

Adopted: August 26, 1974

Revised: October 22, 1990

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STUDENTS

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Substance Abuse Guidelines for Athletes

Rule: During the season of practice or competition, a student shall not (regardless of the quantity) consume, possess, buy, sell or give away any beverage containing alcohol; "street drugs" such as marijuana, stimulants, heroin or cocaine; or any other controlled substances. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined specifically prescribed for the students' use by a doctor. The use and/or possession of alcohol, or drugs during the season will result in an immediate suspension from all team activities. Remember: participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right!

PART I: PROCEDURES

Suspension: The athlete will be suspended for 2 weeks from all team activities. This includes practices, competitions and all other team functions. The offending athlete may be reinstated only after the following steps have been satisfactorily completed:

1. A meeting will be arranged with a school staff counselor.
2. A meeting will be arranged with the athlete, parents/guardians, coach, athletic director, and the principal or his/her designee.
3. A recommendation comes from the principal or designee for reinstatement.

PART II: MINIMUM PENALTIES

First Violation: When the principal or designee confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation has occurred, the student will shall lose eligibility to compete for the next 3 weeks, which is in addition to the initial 2 weeks of suspension. During this 3-week period, the student may practice with the team, but may not compete. An exception will not be made for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. Some form of guidance will be provided by the school.

The sale or distribution of controlled substances within the school or community will result in the dismissal of the athlete for a period of one full calendar year from all athletic teams. This will be in addition to all other school related discipline and legal actions.

Second and Subsequent Violations:

When the principal or designee confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a second or subsequent violation has occurred, the athlete will be dismissed for one full calendar year from all athletic teams. It is important to note that the implementation of these Substance Abuse Guidelines for Athletes will be in addition to the disciplinary action taken as a result of violating a school or Board of Education policy or regulation.

Guidelines adopted: September 24, 2007