

TOBACCO/ALCOHOL USE/STUDENT DRUG ABUSE

The Board recognizes its share of the responsibility for the health, welfare and safety of the students who attend the District's schools. The presence of alcohol, other drugs, and tobacco in the school or students with tobacco, alcohol, and other drug problems is a deterrent to learning, thereby limiting, interfering with or inhibiting the primary responsibility vested in the educational system. The Board is concerned about the problems of tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse and recognizes that illegal or inappropriate use of tobacco, alcohol, narcotic drugs, depressants or other controlled substances is wrong and harmful and constitutes a hazard to the positive development of all students.

The Board does not permit any student to possess, transmit, conceal, offer for sale, consume, show evidence of having consumed or used any tobacco product (in any form including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, clove cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other forms of tobacco), alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, unprescribed drugs, look-alike drugs or any mind-altering substance while on school grounds or facilities; at school-sponsored events; in other situations under the authority of the District or in school-owned or school-approved vehicles. Included in this prohibition are any substances represented as a controlled substance, nonalcoholic beers, steroids, tobacco and tobacco products and drug paraphernalia.

The Board wishes to emphasize the following.

1. Parents and students are given a copy of the standards of conduct and the statement of disciplinary sanctions and are notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.
2. Students who need to take prescription or nonprescription medications must adhere to the policies described in the student handbook.
3. A student is required to obey existing laws on school grounds and while involved in school activities. School authorities have the same responsibility as any other citizen to report violations of the law. The final disposition of any problem, however, is determined by the building principal with due consideration of the welfare of the student and of any other relevant factors involved.
4. Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as described within the Student Code of Conduct up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution. Students are subject to immediate suspension or expulsion proceedings for possession or use of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, or tobacco products. Discipline is imposed independent of court action.

5. If conditions warrant, the administration refers the student for prosecution and offers full cooperation in a criminal investigation.
6. A reduction in penalty may be considered if the student receives professional assistance. Professional assistance may include but not be limited to an tobacco/alcohol/drug education program, assessment with follow through based on the assessment findings, counseling, outpatient treatment, or inpatient treatment.

The Superintendent establishes procedures for dealing with students who may have a tobacco, drug or alcohol problem. These procedures are in compliance with all applicable laws. It is the desire of the Board for students with problems to feel secure enough to ask for help from their teachers or counselors without fear of reprisal. Confidentiality shall be maintained within the limits of the law. The long-range welfare of the student is paramount.

(Adoption date: December 19, 2002)

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2925.01; 2925. 37
 3316.66; 3313. 661
 3719.011; 3719.41

CROSS REFS.: IGAG, Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education
 JHCD, Administering Medicines to Students
 Student Handbooks
 Student Code of Conduct