

Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

MSAD #3 recognizes chemical dependency as a disease and the use of mood-altering and other chemicals (marijuana, alcohol and other drugs) as a significant health problem resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning and the overall development of individuals. To this end the following procedures will:

1. emphasize the District's concern for the health and safety of its students;
2. address the physical and emotional effects of chemical abuse;
3. support existing laws regarding drug use and abuse;
4. assist students to resist pressure which directs them towards the use of mood-altering chemicals;
5. refer students for assistance and evaluation regarding their use of drugs or alcohol;
6. establish disciplinary procedures regarding the use, possession and distribution of drugs or alcohol;
7. insure that the student's right to confidentiality is protected at all times; and
8. create a Student Assistance Team (SAT) in each school.

The SAT will meet on a case referral basis and will be used to provide assistance to students who have chemical health problems. The SAT will not be used for disciplinary purposes. No formal records will be maintained in the student's cumulative folder. The SAT shall consist of the following members: a building administrator, a guidance counselor, the school nurse, a faculty representative (designated by the principal) and if necessary, a social worker. The functions of the SAT shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

1. review assessments made by the chemical health support person or other service provider;
2. develop plans for students referred to the team;
3. recommend participation in chemical health education programs;
4. recommend participation in school-based support groups;
5. recommend non-clinical assessments;
6. recommend and facilitate referrals for clinical and/or medical assessments;
7. act as a liaison among treatment facilities, parents and the school;
8. provide information to school staff and parents when appropriate; and
9. insure the student's right to privacy and confidentiality.

When a SAT is convened, the student and his or her parents will be invited. Parents and students will be encouraged to participate in the SAT process. All recommendations of the SAT will be referred to the administration to monitor implementation.

Rules

1. During the school year, a student shall not use a beverage containing alcohol; or use, have in possession, buy, sell, give away alcohol or any substance defined by law as a scheduled drug, a counterfeit drug, or an imitation scheduled drug. This rule will also apply to drug paraphernalia and look-alike drugs, and will be in effect on school property

and at school sponsored functions (including transportation provided by the District to and from facilities or activities).

2. During the season of practice, play, rehearsal, or duration of any extra- or co-curricular activity (including athletics), a student shall at no time use alcoholic beverages; use or have in possession, buy, sell or give away alcohol or any substance defined by law as a scheduled drug, a counterfeit drug or an imitation drug. This rule will also apply to drug paraphernalia and look alike drugs.
3. Students in grades 6-12 who are involved in interscholastic activities and/or other extra- or co-curricular activities will sign a contract the terms of which will be consistent with this policy.
4. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

Procedures for Intervention in Chemical Dependency Cases

Type I: Self-Referral

First Report:

1. The teacher/staff person talks with the student about the student's concern.
2. The teacher/staff person recommends a self-referral to the chemical health support person or makes a concerned person referral. (For concerned person referral, follow Type II steps 2-5.)
3. The chemical health support person evaluates the student and reports to the SST if appropriate (if not appropriate, omits steps 4 and 5 below).
4. The SST develops a plan with the student based on the report of the chemical health support person.
5. The SST follows up to determine if the student utilizing the resources effectively, and, if no, meets with the student to review the plan.

Second Report:

1. Same as First Report, steps 1-2.
2. Chemical health support person refers student to SST.
3. The SST will make recommendations based on the report of the chemical health support person. The SST will recommend a clinical/medical assessment.
4. The student will be encouraged to follow all recommendations during the process. Students involved in athletics or other extra- or co- curricular activities who do not comply with the recommendations of the SST will be suspended from the team or activity for the remainder of the season of the duration of the activity.

Third and Subsequent Reports:

1. Same as Second report, steps 1-3.
2. Athletes and other students involved in extra- or co- curricular activities will be suspended for the remainder of the season of the duration of the activity.

3. For any reports beyond the third, the student will be suspended from all extra – and co-curricular activities for the remainder of the year.

Type II: Concerned Person Referral

1. The concerned person shares his/her concern with a member of the SST who directs the referral to the chemical health support person.
2. The chemical health support person consults with others who know the student to assess behavior if applicable (student's right to confidentiality is protected).
3. Chemical health support person meets with student, if appropriate, to share concerns and review information and policies. (If student acknowledges problem, follow Type III, Self Referral, First Report, and omit steps 4-6 below; if not proceed to step 4.)
4. Chemical health support person begins non-clinical assessment if appropriate.
5. Chemical health support person notifies parent(s) if appropriate.
6. If appropriate, and with student's consent, chemical health support person meets with SST to develop plan with student.

Type III: All Disciplinary Referrals

1. Document the incident.
2. Notify the administration of the incident.
3. Administrator meets with student and discusses concerns.
4. Administrator notifies parent(s).
5. Administrator notifies Superintendent and follows appropriate legal avenues pertaining to possession of illegal substances by a minor.

First Offense: Possession or Use

1. The student will be suspended from the regular school program for up to 3 days. (Athletes and other students involved in extra- or co-curricular activities will be suspended from those activities for two (2) calendar weeks.)
2. The student will be given a non-clinical assessment by a member of the Student Support Team.
3. The chemical health support person will make a report to the SST.
4. The SST will make recommendations to the administrator regarding appropriate action, which is then communicated to the student and parent(s), by the administrator.
5. The student will be encouraged to follow all recommendations during the process. Students involved in athletics or other extra- or co-curricular activities who do not comply with the recommendations of SST will be suspended from the team or activity for the remainder of the season or duration of the activity.

Second Offense: Possession or Use (During the Same School Year)

1. The student will be suspended from the regular school program for up to five (5) days. (Athletes and other students involved in extra- or co-curricular activities will also be suspended for the remainder of the season or the duration of the activity.)

2. Parents will meet with the administrator and the SST.
3. A clinical/medical assessment will be recommended (for those in extra- or co- curricular activities, this must take place before participation in another activity; failure to comply will lead to suspension from all activities for the remainder of the year.)
4. The student will be encouraged to follow all recommendations made during the process. Failure to comply may result in a recommendation for expulsion.

Third Offense: Possession or Use (During the Same School Year)

1. Administrator recommends expulsion.
2. SST recommends a clinical/medical assessment.

Note: If parent(s) do not follow all recommendations during the process, a referral may be made to the Department of Human Services.

Type IV: Selling or Furnishing

First Offense: (During the Same School Year)

1. Same as First Offense, steps 1-3.
2. Refer to policy JICH, policy JKE, and regulation JKE on expulsion. A recommendation will be made for permanent expulsion.

Note: If parent(s) do not follow the recommendations during the process, a referral may be made to the Department of Human Services.

Search and Seizure:

1. A search and seizure may be made based on reasonable suspicion and consistent with Federal law and the laws of the State of Maine.

Medical Emergency:

1. In the case of a medical emergency, the normal administrative procedure for medical emergencies will follow.
2. Once the medical emergency has been dealt with, the appropriate policy provision will be implemented.

Administrative Discretion:

1. The administration shall have final discretion in the implementation of these rules and procedures.

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