

CHEMICAL ABUSE POLICY

The Brunswick School Board unequivocally endorses the philosophy that our schools should be free from the detrimental effects of illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco products. The Board acknowledges, however, the threat of chemical use among students in our community. To promote the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the safety, health and well being of students, this policy is designed to aid students in abstaining from the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products and to support students who have developed a problem with these substances.

The School Department must be united with students, parents/guardians and the larger community in a problem-solving approach that focuses on the welfare of students without attempting to assign blame, deny problems or excuse bad behavior. The multifaceted approach outlined in this policy is intended to acknowledge a continuum of needs and to support administrators in flexibly responding to problems as they arise.

I. Prohibited Conduct

No student shall manufacture, distribute, dispense, serve, possess, use, transport or be under the influence of any prohibited substance as defined by this policy, the laws of the state of Maine, or federal law.

Prohibited Substances include:

- Alcohol;
- Tobacco products (including smokeless);
- Scheduled drugs as defined in 17-A MRSA §1101;
- Controlled substances as defined in the federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC §812 (examples include but are not limited to: narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, and anabolic steroids);
- Any performance enhancing substance listed on the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Banned Substances list and any other substance which is illegal in Maine or the use of which is illegal for minors;
- Prescription drugs not prescribed for the student and/or not in compliance with the Board's policy: Administering Medicines To Students (FILE: JLCD);
- Any substance which can affect or change a student's mental state, physical condition, or behavior pattern, including but not limited to volatile materials such as glue, paint or aerosols (when possessed for the purpose of inhalation); over the counter medications (such a pseudoephedrine or dextromethorphan) that when used alone in large quantity or in combination with other drugs may pose serious health risks (including death); or other plants and herbs smoked or ingested with the intent to produce drug-like effects;
- Drug paraphernalia (defined as any implement used to distribute, deliver or consume a prohibited substance); or

Any counterfeit drug or substance that is described as or is purported to be a prohibited substance as defined above.

These prohibitions apply to any student who is on school property, any student in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored home or away activity, or any student whose conduct at any time or any place directly interferes with the peacefulness and usefulness of the school.

II. Enforcement

Violations of the terms of this policy will constitute grounds for student discipline, including suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement agencies. The School Resource Officer will also be notified of violations of this policy.

Corrective measures, beyond disciplinary actions for a violation, will be considered by the administrator, who may recommend actions that may range from mandatory in-school counseling to a treatment recommendation. If treatment is recommended, parents/guardians will bear the cost.

Administrators may be more restrictive in the applicability of this policy when engaging parents and students in contracts as a precondition to participate in extracurricular or co-curricular activities.

III. Deterrence

Deterrence can be affected in several ways: through meaningful health education and prevention programs; by creating a school environment where students have a sense of belonging; by building a culture of integrity where a premium is placed on honesty, and contracts can be used effectively; and through credible, visible, and consistent enforcement of chemical abuse policy and related laws.

The health curriculum should include building awareness of the detrimental aspects of chemical use. The Board strives to create a healthy and caring school environment by implementing a systemwide Code of Student Conduct (FILE: JICDA) and through policies such as Anti-Bullying (FILE: JIKC). The Board endorses the use of pledges, contracts and codes of conduct to establish acceptable bounds of behavior relative to the use of chemicals.

School administrators are responsible for developing operating procedures to deter and prevent drug use and trafficking within their school environments. Specific measures that may aid in deterrence may include, but are not limited to, the use of breathalyzers, drug tests and random or scheduled facility searches with counter narcotics dog teams after consultation with the Superintendent. The School Resource Officer should be relied upon for assistance in establishing effective screening procedures at school events and in establishing protocols for facility searches. When employed, it is the

responsibility of school administrators, in conjunction with law enforcement officials, to establish procedures to ensure that these activities are conducted consistently, safely and with the maximum deterrent effect.

IV. Co-Curricular Activities

Additional constraints are placed on students who elect to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities such as sports or after school clubs. Agreeing to the constraints and conduct rules is a precondition to participating in these activities. These agreements are in the form of pledges and must be signed by parent and student. Coaches and activity sponsors shall foster a process for the acceptance of these agreements that reinforces the values of the program and the concept that one's word of honor in a pledge is inviolable.

Activity sponsors, coaches, teachers, administrators and parents must communicate with one another to head off problems and continually reinforce the importance of honor and integrity in the context of the pledge. While every student and every situation may be unique, it is imperative that those charged with administering the policies and contracts do so with consistency, fairness, and in the best interest of all students and the educational environment.

V. Prevention and Education

The School Department will provide information and activities focused on educating students about drugs and alcohol and abstaining from their use. Such information and activities will address the legal, social and health consequences of drug and alcohol abuse and will provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs and alcohol. The School Department will work in partnership with students, parents/guardians and local law enforcement officials to eliminate these risks for students, especially where the health and safety of a particular student are in question.

A. The Role of Parents/Guardians

The Board believes that parents/guardians play a crucial role in preventing high risk behaviors in their children, including illicit drug use such as underage drinking. In fact, teens who learn from their parents/guardians about the dangers and effects of alcohol – and who know that their parents/guardians are monitoring their behavior – are less likely to use and abuse alcohol. Parents/guardians should aim to help decrease the social acceptance of adults hosting/furnishing for minors by actively communicating with other parents/guardians in the school community and with local law enforcement.

B. The Role of the School

The schools should provide parents/guardians as much information on their crucial role as is practicable, including practical tips, useful facts, and

valuable statewide resources to help parents/guardians monitor and prevent illicit substance use by their teens. Information is made available to students through curriculum beginning at the elementary level. Additionally, administrators should make information available through special events, dedicated newsletters, announcements, and correspondence, and the ongoing sponsorship of prevention programs such as D.A.R.E. and Project Alert.

C. The Role of Students

Any active student organization, such as Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), that promotes healthy attitudes and norms among youth and helps to decrease the social acceptance of high risk behaviors should be encouraged, supported and recognized for its special service.

D. The Role of School Staff

Any school staff member who has reason to suspect that a student violated this policy is expected to report the incident to an appropriate administrator immediately. The School Department will provide training to school staff in identifying prohibited substances and their physical effects and behaviors associated with their use, when and where appropriate.

VI. Intervention and Treatment

Administrators will provide assistance to students with chemical abuse problems through a team approach to intervention. Each school will establish teams consisting of, but not limited to: a counselor, teachers, administrators, school nurse and, if the situation warrants in cases where the health and safety of the student are in question, the School Resource Officer. This team will assist students in addressing their involvement with chemical substances and will advise parents on an appropriate student placement in a prevention treatment program at the parents'/guardians' expense. This team will also be a resource for students as they proceed in their educational program chemical-free. While the focus of this team approach is to address the chemical use, they should approach each student's needs holistically in order to address other life issues that may contribute to the student's use of chemicals. All student records concerning such interventions shall be kept confidential as required by state and federal laws. Additionally, the School Department will provide either staff or contracted substance abuse counseling. All known or suspected substance abuse cases shall be referred to the substance abuse counselor for evaluation and referral.

VII. Communications

Effective communication between caring partners in our educational system can create a figurative safety net to identify when a student may be engaged in risky behavior and to share in developing solutions to educate, inform, and otherwise surround the student with support. As parents, teachers, coaches, administrators, counselors, and school resource officers see each student in a different context, they all play critical roles

in the development of this communication network. This is the concept behind the use of staffing groups to assess, address and monitor students' behavioral and chemical abuse issues as well as potential counseling needs. Two-way communication is an imperative part of an effective chemical abuse prevention program. It is the responsibility of school administrators to oversee this process and to ensure all staff members adhere to a proactive approach to communicating student support issues to families, caregivers, and other staffing team members.

VIII. Notice

The School Department shall distribute this policy and appropriate related information to staff, students and parents/guardians on an annual basis through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and school administrators.

Legal Reference: 21 USC§ 812 (Controlled Substances Act)
21 CFR Part 1300.11-15
P.L. 101-226 (Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
Amendments of 1989)
17-A MRSA §1101
42 USC §290 dd-2
42 CFR § 2.1 et seq.
20-A MRSA §1001(9); 4008

Cross Reference: FILE: AD – Philosophy of the Brunswick Public Schools
FILE: ADC – Tobacco Free Schools
FILE: GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace
FILE: JIC – Student Conduct
FILE: JICDA – Brunswick Code of Student Conduct
FILE: JICFA – Hazing
FILE: JICI – Weapons in School Dept
FILE: JK – Student Discipline
FILE: JKD – Suspension of Students
FILE: JKE – Expulsion of Students
FILE: JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students
FILE: JRA – Student Education Records
School Student-Parent/Guardian Handbooks
Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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Statutory References: 17-A: 1101-2
22: 2201 et seq.
Revised: 5/9/07