

STUDENT ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE

The purpose of any school policy must relate to the welfare and well being of the individual student, staff member and the school population in general. The policies, as they have been drafted by a committee representing the Pattonville School District, are directed toward handling situations within the jurisdiction of the school district. The Pattonville School District recognizes that chemical dependency is a treatable health problem which does not respect any group or age. In keeping with the goal of maintaining the schools of the district as free as possible from narcotics, hallucinogenic drugs or intoxicants, the following administrative regulations have been established:

Guidelines for Handling Alcohol/Drug-Related Incidents

1. An emergency situation related to alcohol/drug use will be recognized and treated as a medical emergency. All standard medical emergency procedures will be followed. In such instances, the student will not be left alone, the school nurse will be summoned immediately, and if necessary, additional medical help will be secured. The following procedures are to be carried out:
 - a. In such an emergency, the principal will be responsible for all necessary investigation to be carried out. The principal, or designee, accompanied by another faculty member, may search the student's locker and remove any suspected alcohol/drug substance if it will be necessary for medical information and treatment. If not, a new lock should be placed on the locker and police should be called to see or confiscate the suspected item(s).
 - b. If there is ever a question of a student's safety, professional medical personnel will be notified immediately.
 - c. Maintaining the confidentiality of such situations, particularly the knowledge of there being alcohol/drugs involved, will be the responsibility of all parties involved. Such information will be limited to the initial parties who are in knowledge of the situation, and may only be extended to medical personnel, law enforcement personnel, the school principal, school superintendent, school counselor, or Core Team, law enforcement police included. Parent notification should consist of reporting a medical emergency and describing symptoms to the parents.
 - d. All substances discovered at the emergency scene or subsequently uncovered will be turned over by the school principal, or authorized delegate, to medical personnel/law enforcement for identification and aid in the treatment of the emergency.
 - e. Students involved in such an emergency will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Pattonville School District Behavior Guide.
 - f. Parents will be notified immediately of the incident as a medical emergency.

- d. The Core Team will evaluate the available data and recommend appropriate action, and provide feedback to the student's counselor, grade level principal, teachers, and the originator of the referral (Ref. Form 3).
 - e. The counselor and grade level principal are responsible for initiating the action recommended by the Core Team (Ref. Form 3).
 - f. Disciplinary action or law enforcement involvement is not warranted in this situation.
5. School staff will make every effort to pursue all possible approaches to have a student, who admits to use, but not currently under the influence, accept help.
- a. Investigation will be limited to discussion between the staff member and student.
 - b. It is the staff member's responsibility to inform the student of the help that is available and the student's right to such help.
 - c. The staff member will be responsible for the confidentiality of such discussions. A staff member may discuss the situation only with the nurse, counselor, administrator, or Core Team, preferably with the student's permission. At this point the Core Team referral should be initiated.
6. In an instance of a student being caught in possession, under the influence, or using for the first time, the matter will be pursued on an internal basis in terms of investigation and discipline.
- a. Investigation will be conducted by the principal, or designee. The staff member who discovers the alcohol/drug will confiscate all alcohol/drugs in plain sight. The principal will then request that all other substances be surrendered. The principal will search a student's locker in the presence of a second staff member. Students will not be left alone during this process.
 - b. Parents will be notified and completely informed of the circumstances.
 - c. Discipline will be in accordance with the building behavior guides and the right to due process.
 - d. Student suspension may be reduced if the student is evaluated by a trained chemical dependency counselor or a licensed physician trained in chemical dependency and proof of such evaluation is provided to the school (Ref. Form 4).

7. In the instance of a student being caught in possession, under the influence, or using for the second time, the matter will be pursued on an internal basis in terms of investigation and discipline.
 - a. Investigation will be conducted by the principal, or designee. The staff member who discovers the alcohol/drug will confiscate all alcohol/drugs in plain sight. The student involved will be brought to the principal. The principal will then request that all other substances be surrendered. The principal will search a student's locker in the presence of a second staff member. Students will not be left alone during this process.
 - b. Parents will be notified and completely informed of the circumstances.
 - c. Discipline will be in accordance with the district's behavior guide and the right to due process.
8. When a student has been caught with alcohol/drugs and it is suspected that the student is selling or dispensing the alcohol/drug, the situation will be investigated and all necessary procedures will be followed.
 - a. Investigation will be conducted by the principal or his authorized delegate. Because of the severity of this situation, extreme care should be exercised during all investigation. If available information indicates, the student will be questioned by the principal, who will request the surrender of all substances. The principal will search a student's locker in the presence of a second staff member.
 - b. Supplying or selling of drugs/alcohol will result in a ninety (90) day suspension. A recommendation by the principal will be sent to the Superintendent of Schools for an expulsion of the student in compliance with student due process procedures.
 - c. Law enforcement authorities will be provided with all information and confiscated substances.
9. In an instance of a student volunteering information about possible alcohol/drug possession or use, the situation will be investigated, and necessary procedures will be followed.
 - a. Investigation of volunteered information will be conducted by the staff member contacting the principal, school counselor, school nurse, or Core Team for substantiation. The name of the student volunteering information will be protected.
 - b. Confidentiality will be the responsibility of the staff member involved. Distribution of information will be limited to the student, staff member, school counselor, nurse, principal, superintendent, and Core Team.

10. In instances of suspicion of a non-student selling or dispensing alcohol/drugs on school property, the situation will be investigated, and all necessary procedures will be followed.
 - a. Investigation will be the primary responsibility of the appropriate law enforcement agency with full cooperation from all school staff members.
 - b. Law enforcement authorities will be provided with all information.

Adopted: August 28, 1984

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