

Student Substance Abuse and Dependency**I. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Controlled Drugs:** Drugs which contain any quantity of a substance which has been designated as subject to federal narcotics laws or which has been designated as a depressant or stimulant drug pursuant to federal drug laws, or which has been designated pursuant to section 21a-243 of the Connecticut General Statutes as having a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect upon the high function of the central nervous system and as having a tendency to promote abuse, addiction, and/or psychological dependence.
- B. Drug Paraphernalia:** Any object or device used, intended for use, or designated for use in ingesting, inhaling, injecting, or otherwise introducing controlled or restricted substances into the human body or any object or container used, intended for use, or designed for use in storing, concealing, or distributing controlled substances.
- C. Professional Communication:** Any communication made privately and in confidence by a student to a professional employee (i.e., certificated staff member or school nurse) of such student's school in the course of the employee's employment.

II. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS**A. Voluntary Disclosure**

1. If a student voluntarily tells a staff member of a drug, alcohol, or other substance abuse problem, the staff member must make every effort to guide the student to appropriate professional help.
2. If the student will allow disclosure of the problem, the staff member will share the information received with the principal and the school's student assistance team and/or social worker.
3. The student assistance team and/or social worker will arrange a conference with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student. Professional assistance to help the student overcome the problem will be discussed and encouraged.
4. The student assistance team and/or social worker will maintain contact with the student and the family regarding the problem.

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II. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS (continued)

B. Suspicion of Substance Use

1. The principal or designee, upon reasonable evidence that a student is involved in substance abuse, shall discuss the matter with the student's teacher(s) and/or counselor and the student.
2. The principal or the designee will contact such student's parent(s) or guardian(s) for a conference to provide them with information concerning such use and to advise them of the seriousness of the matter. The building principal or the designee will refer the student to an appropriate agency licensed to assess and treat drug/alcohol involved individuals.

C. Suspicion of Active Involvement With Alcohol or Controlled Drugs

1. If a student is suspected of being under the active influence of alcohol or controlled drugs while on school property, the student is to be taken to the school nurse for medical attention. The parents are to be notified immediately and advised of the abnormal behavior observed and requested to take the student to the family physician or to the hospital.
2. If the parents are not available or transportation is not at their disposal, the school nurse, the school doctor, the principal or his designee shall accompany the student to the hospital.
3. If the symptoms are considered serious, the nurse shall have the student taken to the hospital by ambulance while the principal or designee attempts to contact the parents.
4. If the symptoms are not confirmed as substance abuse, the policy of suspicion of substance use shall be followed.
5. If the symptoms are confirmed as substance abuse, the student shall be referred by the building administrator or the designee to a certified drug and alcohol agency.

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II. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS (continued)

D. Suspicion of Possession of Alcohol, Controlled Drugs, or Drug Paraphernalia

1. The principal or designee, upon establishing reason to suspect that a student is carrying or has carried alcohol, controlled drugs, or drug paraphernalia onto school property, at school sponsored events, on school buses, or en route to and from school sponsored events by any means of travel, shall confront the student with his suspicion and shall contact the parents for a conference concerning the same.
2. If it is determined based on evidence that a student did so possess alcohol, controlled drugs, or drug paraphernalia, disposition will be in accordance with Policy JGD - Suspension and Expulsion, and, if required, the principal or designee will contact the appropriate law enforcement agency.
3. Any drug-like substance discovered will be sealed, documented, and locked in a secure place. It will be submitted to the police as soon as possible, within three days when possible, for analysis and possible use in further proceedings. The principal or designee will give the student a signed, dated receipt and will obtain a signed, dated receipt from the police.
4. If possession is confirmed, the building administrator or designee shall refer the student to a certified drug and alcohol agency.

E. Selling or Distributing Alcohol, Controlled Drugs, or Drug Paraphernalia

1. If a student is caught selling or distributing or is suspected of having sold or distributed alcohol, controlled drugs, or drug paraphernalia on school property, at school sponsored events, on school buses, or en route to and from school sponsored events, the staff member will confiscate any contraband and escort the student to the principal's office or summon the principal or designee who will confiscate the contraband.
2. The principal or the designee shall confront the student with the reasons for the suspicion of selling or transferring of alcohol, controlled drugs, or drug paraphernalia on school property or at a school sponsored event and contact the parents for a conference. The parent shall be informed of the suspected behavior and that the same shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
3. The police department will be notified.

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II. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS

E. Selling or Distributing Alcohol, Controlled Drugs, or Drug Paraphernalia (continued)

4. Any drug-like substance discovered will be sealed, documented and locked in a secure place. Within three days, it will be submitted to the police for analysis and possible use in further proceedings. The principal or designee will give the student a signed, dated receipt and will obtain a signed, dated receipt from the police.
5. If it is determined based on evidence that a student did sell or distribute alcohol, controlled drugs, or drug paraphernalia, disposition will be in accordance with Policy JGD - Suspension and Expulsion.

F. Apprehension for Alleged Drug Abuse

1. When there has been an arrest and/or conviction of a student for the use and/or possession of drugs during a time and/or place other than school property, the school administration shall cooperate with the police during the course of their investigation.
2. In other cases where the student presents danger to himself/herself or other students, alternative options (e.g., homebound instruction, etc.) shall be considered by the administration for the student's future schooling. The option accepted as the most reasonable course of action shall be initiated following a conference with the student's parents or legal guardian.

III. CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. Immunity:** Certified staff and school nurses shall not be required to disclose any information acquired through a professional communication with a student when such information concerns a drug or alcohol problem. Such employees shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, and immune with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such professional communication (cf., Section 10-154a of the Connecticut General Statutes).

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B. Physical Evidence: If in the course of confidential student communication physical evidence that a crime has been or is being committed is obtained, such evidence must be turned over to a school administrator within two school days. The administrator must then turn the evidence over to the police within three school days (or three calendar days if this occurs before a vacation or at the end of a school year). However, the name of the student turning over such evidence need not be disclosed (cf., Section 10-154a of the Connecticut General Statutes).

IV. VIOLATIONS

A. Selling or Distributing Alcohol, Controlled Drugs, or Drug Paraphernalia: If it is determined that a student has sold or distributed alcohol, controlled drugs, or drug paraphernalia on school property, at school sponsored events, or on school buses, disposition will be in accordance with Policy JGD - Suspension and Expulsion.

B. Possession and/or Use of Alcohol, Controlled Drugs, or Drug Paraphernalia

Suggested Guidelines

- 1. First Violation:** Any student determined to be in possession of alcohol, controlled drugs, or drug paraphernalia or demonstrating documented symptoms of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol for the first time during his/her tenure in the school district is subject to the following disciplinary procedure:
 - a.** The student will be suspended out of school for ten (10) days. The principal shall notify the superintendent of schools as to the name of the student against whom the action was taken and the reason for the suspension.
 - b.** If the student agrees voluntarily to be evaluated by a certified drug counselor/agency and completes the program prescribed by the agency in coordination with the school's student assistance or support team, five days of the suspension will be waived. Written verification that the student has been evaluated and has completed the program must be submitted to the building principal or designee. Such verification must be signed by the treatment agency.
- 2. Second Violation:** Any student determined to be in possession of alcohol, controlled drugs, or drug paraphernalia or demonstrating documented symptoms of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs for a second time during his/her tenure in the school will be subject to the following disciplinary procedures:
 - a.** The student will be suspended out of school for ten (10) days in accordance with due process procedures.

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- b. Within twenty-four (24) hours, the principal shall notify the superintendent or designee as to the name of the student against whom such disciplinary action was taken and the reason for the suspension.

IV. VIOLATIONS

B. Possession and/or Use of Alcohol, Controlled Drugs, or Drug Paraphernalia

2. Second Violation (continued)

- c. The principal will recommend to the superintendent of schools that the student be expelled unless the following procedure is followed:
 - 1) A meeting is held with the school's student assistance team, school administrator, student, and parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the school's drug policy and possible recovery programs.
 - 2) The student agrees to be evaluated and treated by a certified drug counselor or agency.
 - 3) The student provides written verification of program completion signed by the treatment agency.
- 3. **Third Violation:** The student will be recommended to the Board of Education for expulsion from the school system in accordance with Policy JGD - Suspension and Expulsion.

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