

Policy: Alcohol and Other Drugs
File Code: JFCHI

The Chittenden Central Supervisory Union recognizes that problems of alcohol and other drug abuse pervade society. The district believes that drug abuse and dependency are treatable health problems which do not respect any age group or age. While health problems are primarily the responsibility of the home and community, the school system shares in this responsibility when these problems interfere with student learning, safety, behavior or maturity.

To this end it is the legal and social responsibility of the School Board to establish policies and encourage administrative action that will protect the right of students to learn and at the same time promote a school environment free to learn and at the same time promote a school environment free from usage, possession or distribution of drugs for other than authorized medical treatment. (It is the intent of this policy that the term "drug" is defined as a mood-altering substance, to include, but not be limited by the following categories: illegal drugs, control drugs, and alcohol).

In keeping with Title 16, VSA Section 1165, 909, and other state and federal regulations, the School Board supports a comprehensive program which shall include, but not be limited by, the following components: K-12 education/prevention programming and staff training; support and referral systems and cooperative agreements; immediate and emergency procedures; possession, use, and/or distribution issues; performance and behavior-related problems; and community awareness programming.

In dealing with persons affected by their own or another's use of alcohol or other drugs every effort must be expended to treat each person as an individual, to promote responsible decisions on the part of the persons themselves, to stress prevention and rehabilitation and to obtain professional evaluations (including medical and psychological reports) whenever appropriate and consistent with other school policies and procedures.

1. Education/Prevention Programming

The supervisory union will develop and implement a sequential K-12 drug abuse prevention education curriculum as defined in Vermont State Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Plan and in the Health Education and Traffic Safety and Driver Education requirements of the Standards for Approving Vermont's Public Schools. This curriculum will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Training opportunities will be offered and/or identified on an ongoing basis so that staff members have the opportunity for a sufficient level of professional development to

implement services required in the schools drug abuse prevention education program. This includes initial training and in-service training as needed.

2. Support and Referral Systems and Cooperative Agreements

The School Board and school staff shall work cooperatively with local health agencies, professional specialists and law enforcement officials. Where law enforcement officials must be notified, school administration shall cooperate and furnish the necessary information required by these officials whenever appropriate and consistent with the student's rights and school policies and procedures.

Each school within the District will have an in-school process for initial assessment, support, and if necessary, referral to community resources for students affected by their own or another's drug use. Likewise the district will have at least one written referral agreement with a community substance abuse treatment provided approved by the office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs. For purposes of this policy, substance abuse is recognized as a disability and appropriate counseling services will apply.

3 Immediate Procedures

Emphasis shall be placed on the welfare and rights of the individual to the extent such consideration does not jeopardize the welfare and rights of others. With regard to students, in school procedures shall provide for the handling of any drug related incident until the student has been discharged to the parent, guardian, social services, medical, or law enforcement agency.

As part of school procedure, the administration shall be immediately informed by school staff members of any violation of the law, including illegal possession or distribution of drugs or alcohol. The administration shall follow the appropriate legal procedures and due process of the law for discipline.

4. Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency involving alcohol or drug abuse, every precaution must be taken to protect the person's health and well-being while protecting the health and well-being of the remaining school population. When appropriate to protect the health of the student, the person shall be brought to the school health office by any employee. Upon evaluation by the school health staff, appropriate first aid shall be rendered. Immediate counseling shall be provided where deemed necessary. The principal, the principals designee, or the superintendent shall be contacted and shall follow the prescribed procedures as outlined in Section 5 of this policy.

5. Possession, Use or Distribution

Any student discovered in a school building, or on school property or at a school sanctioned activity, having possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia, using or distributing drugs, or knowingly and willfully assisting another person in using or distributing drugs in the school buildings, or at a school sanctioned activity, shall be disciplined in accordance with established school policy and procedure. The matter shall be referred to the police for appropriate action.

Any teacher discovered in a school building, or on school property, or at a school sanctioned activity, having possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia, using or distributing drugs, or knowingly and willfully assisting another person in using or distributing drugs in the school buildings or on school property, or at a school-sanctioned activity, shall be disciplined in accordance with Title 16 VSA, Section 1752 and the relevant terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement. The matter shall also be referred to the police for appropriate action.

Any employee discovered in a school building or on school property or at a school sanctioned activity having possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia, using or distributing drugs, or knowingly and willfully assisting another person in using or distributing drugs in the school buildings or on school property, or at a school sanctioned activity shall be disciplined in accordance with established principles of due process and in accordance with the relevant terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement. The matter shall be referred to the police for appropriate action.

Any person other than a student or employee in a school building, or on school property, or at a school sanctioned activity, having possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia, using or distributing drugs, or knowingly and willfully assisting another person or distributing drugs in a school building or on school property or at a school sanctioned activity will be immediately referred to the police.

All employees of the supervisory union (including teachers, custodians, bus contractors, and drivers) shall report to the principal, the principals designee, or the superintendent any incidents and/or behavior of students, other employees, or visitors who display evidence of possession, use or distribution of drugs. Failure to so report, or cooperate in school investigations may result in disciplinary action.

With administrative approval, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages by teachers or employees at meetings or group activities where alcoholic beverages are permitted shall not be in violation of this section.

According to school procedures, a minimum of two staff persons shall be designated for consultation regarding a student whose behavior or performance may indicate a problem with alcohol or other drug use. These staff persons shall assist the determination of need for further screening, education, counseling, or referral to treatment.

Employees of the supervisory union (including contractors and drivers) shall report any incidents and/or behavior of students, other employees, or visitors to the school who display evidence of using drugs. Such report should be made personally to the principal, the principals designee, or the superintendent.

Where a student is determined to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs he/she shall be discharged to a parent, guardian, social service, medical or law enforcement agency.

Following appropriate consultation and deliberation, the parent or guardian of any student suspected of being under the influence of drugs shall be notified by school authorities. A course of action leading toward the determination of facts and, if necessary, toward the treatment and rehabilitation of said student, shall be jointly considered by school authorities.

7. Follow-up Procedures

It is recognized that retaining or returning persons to the school setting is desirable whenever such action is consistent with the individual's own rehabilitation and well-being, and whenever such action does not interfere with the learning process for students and the maintenance of discipline and safety.

Even in disciplinary proceedings the school plays an educational role. Therefore, every effort should be made to protect individual rights within the framework of school regulations, including the assumption of innocence until found otherwise.

Under this policy, students may be required to seek professional guidance and rehabilitation as a condition of enrollment or re-enrollment in school or other alternative education program provided by the district. Refusal to accept such professional care may result in suspension until a conference among the parents, student, and school administration can develop a satisfactory solution, but any suspension shall only be imposed in accordance with student handbook policies.

Under this policy, employees may be required to seek professional guidance and rehabilitation as a condition of continued employment. Refusal to accept such professional care may result in suspension until a conference among the employee and appropriate school administration can develop a satisfactory solution. Be assured

that any suspension shall only be imposed in accordance with 16 Vermont Statutes Annotated, Sections 1752, due process and the relevant terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

8. Prescription Drugs and Other Medication

Any student who must take medication during the regular school day shall do so in accordance with the district policy JHCD concerning the administration of medications.

9. Community Involvement

The Chittenden Central Supervisory Union shall provide for a program to inform the community about the schools alcohol and other drugs abuse prevention, intervention, and education programs; alcohol and other drug abuse prevention issues, and community-wide responsibility for effective alcohol and other drug abuse prevention.

First Reading: May 27, 1998

Adopted: September 10, 1998

Chittenden Central Supervisory Union