

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

### Philosophy

All students have a right to receive an appropriate education in an alcohol and drug-free environment. The Addison-Rutland Supervisory Union School Boards encourage educational programs that provide every student with an understanding of the physical, psychological, social and legal dangers associated with drug abuse.

Chemical abuse and dependency are treatable health problems that are primarily the responsibility of the home and the community. The school shares this responsibility in the areas of prevention (education) and intervention (identification and referral).

Community and schools share in this responsibility because chemical problems often interfere with behavior, learning, and the fullest possible development of each student.

### Policy

It is the policy of this school district that no student shall knowingly possess, use, sell, manufacture, give or otherwise transmit or be under the influence of any illegal drug, regular substance, or alcohol on any school property, or at any school sponsored activity away from or within the school. This prohibition also applies to individuals and groups using school facilities for non-school related activities. The only exception to the above is the use of medication with proper medical authorization and supervision. Prescription medicines will be handled according to Appendix 8 of Vermont School Health Services Recommended Program, Revised 1979, "Policy For Medication in School."

### Procedures

#### I. *Educational Program*

The district shall conduct an alcohol and drug abuse educational program on a sequential basis from early childhood through grade 12 in accordance with the mandates of 16 V.S.A. 909, the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Plan, and the federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (PL 101-226).

The board shall cooperate actively with law enforcement, social services or other agencies and organizations, parents, and any other recognized community resources to reduce the incidents of illegal use of drugs and alcohol by school-age youths. When dealing with student problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse, school personnel shall provide parents and students with information concerning education and rehabilitation programs which are available. Information provided to students and/or parents about community substance abuse treatment programs or other resources shall be accompanied by a disclaimer. This will clarify that the school district assume no financial responsibility for the expense of drug or alcohol assessment or treatment provided by other agencies or groups unless other wise required for student identified as qualified under IDEA or Section 504.

No student under the age of eighteen will be referred to an outside agency for substance abuse treatment without parental consent, unless, in accord with 18 V.S.A. Section 4226, the student is over the age of 12 and found by a licensed physician to be dependent upon regulated drugs or an alcoholic. Parental consent is not required for student participation in group programs conducted within the schools which are educational in nature and designed to impart information and/or assist students in improving their sense of self esteem. Such groups may be conducted only by trained professionals contracted by the schools to perform such service or by trained school staff who have been approved by the school administration to conduct such groups.

## II. *Procedures for Dealing With Substance Abuse Incidents*

Students who are experiencing problems with alcohol and drugs are in need of assistance. The type of assistance needed may vary; however, the school system is committed to providing the most appropriate response to each individual. The actions set forth below will be considered routine procedures. In situations where extreme violations occur, the specific action may be waived by the administrator. Any action taken by waiver of these procedures will be explained in a written report to the Superintendent. All disciplinary measures taken in accordance with this policy will comply with due process requirements.

### A. Students under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs

#### 1. First offense

- a. Student will be treated as an ill student and will be sent home by an administrator after the parents have been notified. In crisis situations the matter will be handled as a medical emergency and accordingly the school officials will involve ambulance and police assistance as may be appropriate.
- b. Police shall be notified when drugs are involved. Reporting of first offense alcohol problems to the police is within the discretion of the administrator.
- c. The student will be referred to the school's Substance Abuse Team.
- d. The student will undergo an alcohol/drug assessment within ten days of the incident and further will participate in a treatment program if warranted by the assessment.
- e. The student will be suspended from school for ten (10) days.

#### 2. Second offense

- a. Steps (a.) of the first offense procedures.
- b. Police shall be notified.
- c. The student will be suspended from school for ten (10) days and recommended to the board for expulsion.

### B. Students in possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol

When students are found in possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol, the substance(s) will be removed from the student. Procedures for handling such incidents will be identical to those used when a student is found to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

### C. Students selling or furnishing alcohol and/or drugs

#### 1. First offense

- a. The student will be suspended from school for ten (10) days after the parents have been notified.
- b. Police shall be notified.

- c. The student will be referred to the school's Substance Abuse Team.
- 2. Second offense
  - a. Steps (a) and (b) for first offense will be followed.
  - b. The student will be recommended to the board for expulsion.

D. Suspected substance abuse

When a staff member has reason to believe that a student might be having a problem related to substance abuse the staff member shall make a referral to the Substance Abuse Team, and notify the school administrator of this action.

E. Co-curricular activities

Students who violate the school district's policy on alcohol and drugs while they are members of a school team are subject to additional disciplinary actions as are defined in the school's training rules. Any student who commits a second offense, in the same year, of the school district's policy may not represent the school and consequently the student will immediately be dismissed from all co-curricular activities (athletic and non-athletic) for the remainder of the school year.

III. *Substance Abuse Team*

In each of the schools the principal shall form a Substance Abuse Team which shall screen students who refer themselves and students who are referred by staff for suspected drug and/or alcohol abuse problems. The membership of the team and the procedures to be used by the team will be developed by the building principal and announced in writing to the building faculty and staff.

IV. *Notification*

Parents and students will be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions contained in this policy, and will be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

APPROVED: October 21, 1998

CASTLETON/HUBBARDTON SCHOOL DISTRICT