

Students

ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO

5131.6

I. Definition of Terms

“Drug/Mood Altering Substance/Alcohol” shall include any alcohol or malt beverage, and drug listed as a controlled substance, chemical, abused substance or medication for which a prescription is required under the law, and/or any substance which is intended to alter mood. Examples of the above include, but are not limited to: beer, wine, liquor, marijuana, hashish, chemical solvents, glue, look alike substance and any capsules or pills not registered with the nurse, annotated within the student’s health record and given in accordance with the school district policy for the administration of medication to students in school.

“Student Assistance Teams (SAT)” is a multi-disciplinary team composed of school personnel. This team has been trained to understand and work on the issues of adolescent chemical use, abuse, and dependency and will play a primary role in the identification and referral process of students coming to their attention through the procedures outlined in this policy. The Student Assistance Team will enlist the resources of a licensed drug and alcohol facility when professional assessment and/or group programs are recommended.

“Chemical Abuse Specialist” is a community-based chemical abuse specialist with expertise in the area of chemical dependency and school based assessment (such as those resources and personnel from a licensed drug and alcohol facility to be utilized by the Portland Public Schools).

“Distributing” is to deliver, sell, pass, share or give any tobacco, alcohol, drug or mood altering substance as defined by this policy from one person to another or to aid therein.

“Possession” is to possess or hold, without any attempt to distribute any tobacco, alcohol, drug or mood-altering substance determined to be illegal, or as defined by this policy.

“Drug Paraphernalia” includes any utensil or item which in the school’s judgment can be associated with the use of drugs, alcohol, or mood-altering substances. Examples include but are not limited to roach clips, pipes, bowls, crack vials, miniature cocaine spoons and tobacco rolling paper.

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II. Tobacco

In the face of overwhelming evidence about smoking as a health hazard, and in keeping with the teachings in our school curriculum, and as a further deterrent and prevention against smoking by young persons, the Portland Board of Education institutes the following policy:

Our school health curriculum teaches youth the physical hazards of smoking and the use of tobacco products and that it is an illegal substance for those under 18 years of age.

Smoking and the use of tobacco products is prohibited in school buildings, on school grounds, at school activities, and on school buses at all times. All schools are “Drug-Free School Zones”.

Visible display and/or possession of tobacco products by students is prohibited on school property.

Minimum Penalties for Students Violating Portland’s Board of Education Smoking Policy

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| 1st Offense | -One day suspension and/or loss of privileges for two weeks and participation in a smoking cessation program at parent expense. |
| 2nd Offense | -Five day suspension and/or loss of privileges for eight weeks. |
| 3rd Offense | -Ten day out-of-school suspension and option to recommend that the Board of Education conduct a hearing to determine if grounds exist to expel the student from school for up to 180 days. |

Penalties may be imposed at an accelerated rate based on circumstances and the judgment of the Administration.

III. Alcohol and Drugs

The Portland School System will, in a coordinated effort, attempt to respond openly and effectively to the uses and abuses of drugs, alcohol and mood-altering substance by members of the student population. This effort, through curriculum, community support and resource services, such as those provided by a licensed drug and alcohol facility, and strong, consistent administrative rehabilitative and disciplinary procedures, will work to educate, prevent and intervene in the use and abuse of all drug, alcohol, and mood altering substances by its student population.

However, the Portland Board of Education recognizes the harmful effect that substance abuse can have on a student. For this reason, a student on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity at any time or at any location who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs or mood-altering

substances or possesses, uses, manufactures, dispenses, sells or aids in the procurement of alcohol, narcotics, restricted drugs, mood-altering substances, or any substance purported to be restricted substance or over-the-counter drug shall be subjected to discipline pursuant to the Board of Education policies and regulations.

Steroid Use

The Board of Education prohibits the use of performance enhancing drugs, including but not limited to, anabolic steroids and Human Growth Hormone (HGH), by students unless required by a physician in the treatment of a medical condition, and provided in writing by the student's physician to the school administration.

Students shall be made aware of the dangers of steroid use and that their use, unauthorized possession, purchase, or sale could subject them to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Inhalant Abuse

In addition to the prohibitions pertaining to alcohol, drugs and tobacco no student shall inhale, ingest, apply, use or possess an abusable glue, aerosol paint or substance containing a volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply or use any of these in a manner:

1. Contrary to directions for use, cautions or warnings appearing on a label of a container of the glue, paint aerosol or substance; and
2. Designed to affect the central nervous system, create or induce a condition of intoxication, hallucination or elation, or change, distort, or disturb the person's eyesight, thinking process balance or coordination.

For purposes of this policy, inhalants include, but are not necessarily limited to:

Nitrous Oxide - Laughing Gas, Whippets, CO2 Cartridge

Amyl Nitrite - "Locker Room," "Rush," "Poppers," "Snappers"

Butyl Nitrite - "Bullet," "Climax"

Chlorohydrocarbons - Aerosol Paint Cans, Cleaning Fluids

Hydrocarbons - Aerosol Propellants, Gasoline, Glue, Butane

Further, no student shall intentionally, knowingly or recklessly deliver or sell potentially abusable inhalant materials as listed above.

No person shall intentionally use or possess with intent to use inhalant paraphernalia to inhale, ingest, or otherwise introduce into the body an abusable glue, aerosol paint or substance or other substance that contains a volatile chemical.

The Board reserves the right to use any extraordinary measures deemed necessary to control substance abuse even if the same is not provided for specifically in any rule or regulation enumerated herein.

Penalties for the use, possession, and/or distribution of drugs and/or alcohol, including paraphernalia, may range from referral to the Student Assistance Team, up to and including expulsion from school for up to 180 days. The Building Administrator will determine the appropriate course of action and will notify the police whenever appropriate.

Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and a recommendation for expulsion. Violators of this policy may also be required to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program.

Allegations of drug possession, distribution, or usage will be investigated by the administration. Courses of action may include, but are not limited to: referral to Student Assistant Team, referral to social service or medical personnel for counseling/programming, reporting to police, suspensions and expulsions.

Mandatory expulsion is governed by CT Statutes 10-233a through 10-233f., Suspension, Removal and Expulsion of Students and CT Penal Code Sections 21a-277 and 21a-278.

IV. Instruction

Students will receive instruction emphasizing the effect of alcohol, nicotine, tobacco, and drugs on health, character, and personality development wherever appropriate in the health education program and such other contexts which touch on the subject.

V. Cooperation with Community and Parents

Any effort put forth by the Portland Public Schools to address alcohol, drugs and tobacco usage requires support from all parents and cooperation from the community in order to be effective.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-16b Prescribed courses of study.

10-221(d) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

21a-240 Definitions, dependency producing drugs

21 U.S.C. 812 Controlled Substance Act

Policy Revised: December 12, 2006

Portland Public Schools Portland, CT