

Regulation

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Bordentown Regional Board of Education is concerned with the present broad-based problem with drugs, inclusive of anabolic steroids, and alcohol within our society and recognizes its responsibility to our community and our students.

For the purpose of this policy, the term substance shall mean any of the following:

- A. All alcoholic beverages;
- B. Any controlled dangerous substance as identified in N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and/or
- C. Any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system, including but not limited to glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes, as defined in N.J.S.A. 2A:170-25.9.
- D. Any prescription drug, except for those with permission for use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy.
- E. Anabolic steroids

The use or possession of a substance, the sale of same or functioning under the influence of a substance is strictly prohibited on school property or at any school-supervised event and is subject to discipline.

Instruction

Substance abuse education is a critical aspect of the total school program. The alcohol and drug education program in the Bordentown Regional School District shall be sequential from the elementary level through high school with emphasis on information, self-awareness, interpersonal skills, and decision-making, as outlined in the Department of Education guidelines and the Core Curriculum Content Standards. This program shall be developed in consultation with appropriate state and local agencies and non-profit agencies.

Substance abuse educational programs and parenting skills for parents/guardians will be offered at times and places convenient to the parents/guardians on school premises or other facilities.

There shall be an annual in-service with appropriate staff personnel reviewing this policy and provide training in the identification and detection of substance abuse and district reporting and response.

Additionally, policy and procedures will be made available to all staff, students, and parents/guardians annually.

Identification of Substance Abuse

- A. Teaching staff members in particular and other school staff members will be alert to the signs of a student's involvement with drugs and/or alcohol. Symptoms may include:
 - 1. Impaired health or fatigue;
 - 2. Poor motor coordination;
 - 3. Excessive truancy or tardiness;
 - 4. Lower grades or significant grade fluctuation;
 - 5. Depressed appetite or loss of weight;

6. Appetite extremes;
 7. Eyes that are bloodshot, watery, extremely wide, or have small pupils;
 8. An unusual body or breath odor;
 9. Needle tracks;
 10. Change in attitude, personality, temperament, appearance, or peer groups;
 11. Mental confusion;
 12. Financial problems;
 13. Resort to excuses and rationalization.
- B. Teaching staff members in particular and other school staff members will be alert to the signs of a student's involvement with steroids use and abuse. Symptoms may include:
1. Acne;
 2. Edema (water retention in tissue);
 3. Hirsutism (hairiness in women - irreversible);
 4. Jaundice;
 5. Male pattern baldness;
 6. Oily skin (females only);
 7. Stunted growth;
 8. Swelling of feet or lower legs, yellowing of the eyes or skin, aggressive;
 9. Combative behavior (violent rage);
 10. Abdominal or stomach pains;
 11. Bone pain;
 12. Breast development (sore or swelling - male);
 13. Chills and fever;
 14. Depression;
 15. Frequent urge to urinate (mature males);
 16. Hives;
 17. Continuing headache;
 18. Muscle cramps;
 19. Sore tongue;
 20. Rash unexplained darkening of skin;
 21. Unexplained weight loss;
 22. Unpleasant breath odor (continuing);
 23. Unusual weight gain;

Reporting Students under the Influence or Suspect of Use or Abuse

- A. All staff members have the responsibility to report any suspected "substance" abuse or possession to the building principal. Any staff member who reports a student to the principal or designee, or CORE team member shall not be liable in civil damages as a result of making such a report;
- B. To ensure the schools are drug free locker searches and searches by narcotic dogs and other methods may be used in the school building and according to law and the school memorandum of agreement with local law enforcement;
- C. The building principal or designee will ensure that staff members receive training relevant to the identification of substance abuse and district reporting procedures;
- D. Staff members who suspect a student of being under the influence shall respond immediately according to the following procedures:
 1. The student shall be sent to the nurse in order that vital signs can be measured. The student shall be accompanied by a school staff member;
 2. The incident shall be reported to the principal;
 3. A follow-up written report shall be submitted within 24 hours of the reported suspicion. The report (Behavioral Checklist- Available in administrative offices) shall describe the cause for suspicion to the

4. principal or designee noting the date, time, circumstances, action(s) taken and staff member(s) involved.
- E. The school nurse and the principal shall ensure immediately response for the health and safety of a student determined to be under the influence according to the following procedures:
1. The parents/guardians will be notified immediately and told that the student must be tested immediately at a medical facility by a physician licensed to practice medicine that is determined by the district. This testing shall include a medical examination, urine and/or blood testing;
 2. If the parents/guardians chooses to take the student to their family doctor for the required medical examination they shall be responsible for payment;
 3. If the parent/guardian cannot be located, the student shall be examined by the school physician or transported by local law enforcement to a district approved medical facility for examination by a licensed physician. The student shall be accompanied by the assistant principal or his or her designee;
 4. The student shall be supervised at all times until released to the parent/guardian;
 5. Any student evaluated for suspicion of substance use or abuse shall be readmitted to school upon the authorization of the doctor who has examined the student;
- F. Any student suspected drug and/or alcohol abuse and/or addiction who is not under the influence may be reported to the school nurse and the school counselor.

Evaluation and Treatment of Students Under the Influence

A student shall be readmitted to school upon receipt of the medical examination and drug and alcohol test results (usually twenty-four hours or less) and with authorization for the examining physician indicating the student is medically able to return to school and poses no threat to self or others. The following procedures shall apply:

- A. A written copy of the test result will be forwarded to principal and parent;
- B. If the test result is positive, the principal or his/her designee will receive a copy of the report. This report will become part of the students counseling intake file;
- C. If the test result is positive, the student will be disciplined in accordance with the code of student conduct, as described below, from the date of verification. During the suspension, the principal or his/her designee will advise the parent/guardian of additional assessment and evaluation options.
- D. If a test result comes back designated as diluted or otherwise unreadable, the student will be subject to school discipline and a re-test will be required at the expense of the parent/guardian;
- E. The principal or his/her designee will contact parent/guardian and student in order to develop a counseling program for student upon return to school.

It is imperative that the safety of the child be the overriding consideration AT ALL TIMES. All other procedures can be followed and reinforced ONLY after the school nurse determines, through examination of vital signs, that there is no immediate danger to the student.

Students who test negative will be immediately re-admitted to school.

Parent/Guardian Cooperation with the District

Refusal or failure by a parent/guardian to comply with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 regarding the required examination, evaluation of or treatment of substance abuse shall be deemed a violation of the Compulsory Education Act (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-31) and/or child neglect (N.J.S.A. 9:6-1 et seq.) laws. The sanctions of board policy and this procedure will be applied regardless of parental or student compliance.

If parent/guardian refuses to have student tested the superintendent or designee will report the incident to the Division of Child Protection and Permanence (DCP&P) for child welfare assessment and will exclude the child from school until such test is completed. Attendance charges for truancy will also be filed against the parent/guardian.

Upon re-entry to school, each student will be required to meet with the principal or his/her designee for assessment and referral. The principal or his/her designee along with the regular counseling staff, shall be responsible to refer the student to the child study team if any learning disability or other appropriate need, e.g., chronic illness, is implied.

Search and Seizure

- A. A student who is suspected of being under the influence or suspected of possession of drugs or alcohol may be asked to voluntarily consent to empty pockets and personal belongings such as book bags. If student does not consent, and there is a reasonable suspicion of possession of a controlled substance or paraphernalia, parent/guardian shall be notified and local law enforcement may be contacted. Any search shall be conducted in the presence of an administrator and another staff member. **AT NO TIME WILL A STAFF MEMBER SUBJECT A STUDENT TO A PAT DOWN OR STRIP SEARCH.**
1. The student, if appropriate and not under the influence, may be present at the search of his/her locker. An administrator and another staff member will conduct locker searches;
 2. If any substance or paraphernalia is found, the police and superintendent will be notified;
- B. A student found to be in possession of a controlled dangerous substance will be reported directly to the police. Charges will be filed under the "Drug Free School Zone" law. This student will be suspended for ten (10) days and also tested to determine if the student is under the influence. A repeat of possession will result in at least a (10) ten-day suspension and a recommendation to the board of education for expulsion. In all cases, a student in possession of a controlled or dangerous substance shall also be investigated to determine if the student is selling and/or distributing "a substance". If a determination is made that there is reasonable indication of sale and/or distribution, the student shall be reported to law enforcement authorities.
- C. When the suspected drugs or drug paraphernalia are found, a chain of evidence is to be followed:
1. The evidence must not leave the principal's or designee's possession or sight until given over to the authorities;
 2. The evidence will be placed into an envelope or bag and labeled with the signature of the person obtaining it, the date obtained, the name(s) of the student(s) involved (if known), and a description of the item(s) seized. The envelope or bag should be sealed;
 3. The evidence will be maintained in the same condition from the moment of seizure until turned over to the police. If a considerable delay occurs prior to the arrival of the police, the evidence should be locked in a desk, closet or area limited to the person who placed it there;
 4. The police officer receiving the evidence must provide a receipt for the evidence noting his signature and date. The police should later furnish a lab report to the school official noting the nature of the suspected substance.

Selling and Distribution

If there is reason to believe a student is selling or distributing any substance as defined in this policy or any prescription drug on school property or at a school function, the student will be reported to the police and immediately referred to the board of education with a recommendation for expulsion.

In all cases, it is imperative that all due process rights be followed. Parents and students will be informed of the reason for exclusion and, if ultimately suspended, the reason for that suspension.

Upon re-entry, student will be required to meet with the principal or his/her designee for assessment and referral. The principal or his/her designee along with the regular counseling staff, shall be responsible to refer

the student to the child study team if any learning disability or other appropriate need, e.g. chronic illness is implied.

Records

The board shall ensure the confidentiality of student records in compliance with board policy 5125 Student Records and requirements established in law (42 CFR).

Documentation concerning a student's involvement with drugs/alcohol shall be entered on his/her records, subject to Board policy regarding confidentiality and limited access. All such documents shall be expunged when they are no longer required for the counseling or discipline of the student, or when the student leaves school, or as part of the resolution of a legal matter.

Consequences for being Under the Influence

A student who is suspected to be under the influence of a "substance" will be tested. If there is confirmation that the student is under the influence, the following will occur:

A. First Offense

1. Two (2) days out of school suspension and three (3) days in-school suspension;
2. Six (6) counseling sessions with district student assistance counselor. The district student assistance counselor may recommend and evaluation by a board approved outside agency;
3. Parking privileges shall be revoked for the remainder of the school year;
4. A police report may be filed.

B. Second Offense

1. Four (4) days out of school suspension and three (3) days in-school suspension;
2. Ten (10) counseling sessions with district student assistance counselor. The district student assistance counselor requires an evaluation by a board approved outside agency and participation in post incident drug screening program;
3. Loss of all extracurricular activities for the balance of the school year;
4. A police report may be filed.

C. Third Offense

1. Ten days (10) out of school suspension and board of education referral for a hearing;
2. Assessment/referral and counseling treatment by board approved outside agency;
3. Police report may be filed.

All violations are cumulative. If a student violates the policy for the first time while in middle school, any violation at the high school will be considered a second offense.

If the drug use violation is accompanied by manifestations so serious as to put the welfare and safety of others at risk, the student may be recommended for alternative placement from school. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and the Superintendent must meet in conference prior to a student's return to school.

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