

**CHEMICAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SAFETY
(DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS)**

PURPOSE

This policy is established for the purpose of setting forth the North Kingstown School Committee's support of State and Federal law and regulation governing the possession and use of illicit drugs, mind or mood altering substances, alcohol, tobacco, designer drugs and possession of paraphernalia involved in the use of these substances. The intent of this policy is to set forth the School Committee's expectation in the event such use or possession occurs on or off school property.

PHILOSOPHY

The North Kingstown School committee cares about the health, safety and welfare of all North Kingstown students. The School Committee has developed this policy to guide students to healthy decisions. The policy will be implemented to govern the use and possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, inhalants and paraphernalia on or off school property, at a school-sponsored activity or event, or in any way related to the conduct of program and activities of the North Kingstown School Department. The School Committee reserves the right, without notice, to add to the banned substance list at any time.

Research statistics substantiate that the use of illicit substances is a major social health problem in the United States. The School Committee is committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle for its students and staff. The School Committee believes the following policy will accommodate concerns of parents, students, legal enforcement authorities, and community members relative to substance abuse associated with the North Kingstown School Department. The school department supports its students in reaching their full potential in their academics and extracurricular activities. The opportunity for achievement is limitless when students are able to learn in a supportive and drug free environment.

POLICY STATEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

A drug-free zone has been established by the office of the R.I. Attorney General to include any boundaries that mark the school perimeter. It is further stated by the Attorney General's Office, persons convicted of distribution or manufacturing of a controlled substance on public school grounds shall be punished by a term of imprisonment or a fine or both, up to twice the amount authorized by RIGL 21-284.01(A) or 21-28-4.07. This policy is inclusive and prohibits the use of illicit substances. Due process procedures governing suspension shall be adhered to for all violations of this policy.

The use of, being under the influence of, possession of, or sale/distribution of illicit substances and/or paraphernalia associated with substance abuse is prohibited within the

North Kingstown school buildings, in school vehicles or on school grounds at any time including school hours and school-sponsored activities. This policy also affects persons within the established drug-free zones during non-school hours, vacations, and all activities on-site, etc. It is prohibited under this policy for any student off school property to use, be under the influence of, be intoxicated by, possess, sell or distribute illicit substances as stated by Rhode Island State law.

The School Committee endorses this substance abuse policy in order to ensure the highest possible standards of learning, as well as assuring the maintenance of the highest possible level of safety, health, and well-being for all students.

The intent of this policy is to:

1. encourage students to abstain from the use of any mind or mood altering substances, including, but not limited to, illicit substances, tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, synthetic marijuana and improper use of prescription drugs.
2. intervene when student use is detected,
3. take corrective disciplinary action,
4. provide aftercare support for students.

A. PREVENTION

The School Department will provide students and parents with information and activities focused on preventing students from using illicit, mind or mood altering substances. Prevention activities will include an instructional program, guidance and counseling, supportive school climate, and family and community involvement.

Students who participate in athletics and/or extracurricular activities will be required to attend a *mandatory meeting with their parent(s) once each year, before their first athletic season or extracurricular activity of the current school year.* The meeting will include a presentation on substance abuse and a review of team rules, as well as comments from the athletic director and principal.

All students participating in athletics and/or extracurricular activities, as well as a parent, will be required to sign a contract stating they understand the policy as mandated by the North Kingstown School Committee. The contract will be required to be signed each school year before the student may participate in any athletics or extracurricular activities. Contracts will be kept on file with the school department. *This policy and contract pertains to the high school and both middle schools.*

B. INTERVENTION AND AFTER CARE

The School Department will establish and maintain a student assistance program to aid students, who are chemically involved, and to successfully address their harmful involvement with chemicals so they can be healthy and participate in school programs.

The school department will work cooperatively with the student, parent(s), and community treatment personnel to support an aftercare program.

C. SELF-REFERRAL

Self-referral is defined as a student approaching a counselor or staff member independently without provocation and confiding in them about the substances with which they are involved. If the student were to self-refer to the Student Assistance Counselor or to a staff member prior to being involved in an incident, there would be no sanction (consequence) imposed on the student. Continued participation in extracurricular activities or athletics would be based on an evaluation / recommendation submitted to the advisor / head coach and building Principal by the Student Assistance Counselor. The school district is committed to doing all they can to assist students who have self-referred.

Should a violation occur after the self-referral, consequences stated in this policy may be placed on the student.

D. POLICY EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS ON AND OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Medical research substantiates that the use of alcohol and mind/mood altering substances produces harmful effects on the human body and will affect mental and athletic performance. Students should not compromise their participation in their education, extracurricular activities or athletics. Students who experiment with such substances jeopardize school morale, reputation and success, do physical harm to themselves, and risk personal injury, as well as possible harm to other students and staff.

Students must make the commitment to refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs, steroids, and illicit substances as mandated by state law and or North Kingstown School Committee. Students are considered in violation of this policy if they use or are in the presence of, possess, consume (including being under the influence of and/or distribute). No student will consume any illicit substances or any prescription medication not prescribed to them by medical personnel.

This policy is in effect when on school property, at school functions or activities as well as off school property. This policy is in effect year round.

E. DISCIPLINE

Students have the right to attend school in an environment free of alcohol, tobacco and drugs that are mind or mood altering substances.

The consequences for violation of this Committee Policy Statement on district property shall result in disciplinary action as defined in Administrative Directive JICH – R. Where violations of the law are involved, law enforcement agencies will be notified.

Students that are not participating in athletics or extracurricular activities at the time of the violation will be referred to the principal for disciplinary action and possible referral.

Students that are participating in athletics or extracurricular activities will be disciplined according to the information listed under violations/consequences.

Any student involved in a violation of the code of conduct that results in a suspension from school or activity, or charged with crimes outside of school, will lose the ability to serve as a leader of an extracurricular activity or as a captain of an athletic team and be ineligible to serve for a period of one calendar year.

Exceptions to disciplinary procedures must be reviewed and approved by the School Principal and the Superintendent of Schools.

F. PRESENCE AT PARTIES WITH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

If a student attends a party or event where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed or consumed by a member of the student body/ and or other individuals not of legal age, the student must leave the party immediately or risk being in violation of the policy.

G. CYBER IMAGES

Any identifiable image, photo, or video which implicates a student to have been in possession or in the presence of alcohol and or drugs, or portrays actual use or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code of conduct. Even though there is no way to establish a timeframe for where or when the images were taken, this is a responsibility that the student must assume. It is also possible that a person may attempt to implicate a student by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. Students must take every precaution to not place themselves in such an environment.

H. VIOLATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

1. For a **first** violation an athlete will be suspended for the next 2 scheduled sanctioned events. Suspension for a student participating in an extracurricular activity will be decided by an administrator and the activity director, following the current guidelines of the policy. Every effort will be made to treat all extracurricular activities equitably. The suspended student may return to the team or activity for practices or meetings *only*. The student will be reinstated for competition/activity once the requirements have been met. This suspension will be completed during the activity or athlete's season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season/activity to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next extracurricular activity or interscholastic sport season in which that student participates.

The student must meet with the Student Assistance Counselor and with the Athletic Director/Student Activities Director, coach or activity advisor, after which the student will be reinstated to the extracurricular activity or team.

2. For a **second violation**, in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for 90 calendar days (excluding summer vacation). After 10 days, the student may return to the activity or team meetings or practices only. The student will be required to forfeit their leadership or captaincy position. Referral to an outside agency for counseling may be made upon the discretion of the Student Assistance Counselor. If the student volunteers to become part of an approved chemical dependency or treatment program (at no cost to the School District), the student may return to participation after a minimum of 45 days. This treatment program must be certified in writing to the Athletic Director/Student Activities Director by a doctor or counselor.

3. For any **additional violation** in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for 365 calendar days.

CONSEQUENCES OF USE OF CIGARETTE, CIGAR AND SMOKELESS TOBACCO, ANY NICOTINE, ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

1. For a **first violation** an athlete will be suspended for the next sanctioned event. Suspension for a student participating in an extracurricular activity will be decided by an administrator and the activity director, following the current guidelines of the policy. Every effort will be made to treat all extracurricular activities equitably. The suspended student may return to the team or activity for practices or meetings only. The student will be reinstated for competition/activity once the requirements have been met. This suspension will be completed during the activity season, if not sufficient time remaining in the season, the suspension will be carried over into the next extracurricular activity or interscholastic sport season in which that student participates.

2. For a **second offense**, in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for 30 calendar days (excluding summer vacation).

3. For any **additional violation** in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for 365 calendar days.

Adopted: 3/3/75

Amended: 1/25/82; 9/5/89; 10/24/01, 6/16/09, 10/09/12