

ALCOHOL and SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

I. POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the St. Johnsbury School District that no student shall knowingly possess, use, sell, give or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any illegal substance, regulated substance, or alcohol on any school property, or at any school sponsored activity away from or within the school. It is further the policy of the District to make appropriate referrals in cases of substance abuse. The inappropriate and/or illegal use of prescription and over-the-counter preparations is prohibited. Prescription medication for personal use shall be allowed only under the supervision of school personnel, with written orders from a physician. Over-the-counter medication shall be dispensed by the school nurse after securing written permission from parent/guardian. In dealing with substance abuse cases, every effort will be made to promote responsible decision-making by the student involved. Our focus will be to encourage appropriate medical and/or psychological intervention by trained professionals. Students and parents or guardians will be given information about outside agencies and will be encouraged to take advantage of their services and programs.

II. RATIONALE:

All students have a right to receive an appropriate education in an alcohol and substance-free environment. The Board supports educational programs that provide every student with an understanding of the physical, psychological, social, and legal dangers associated with substance abuse.

Substance 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.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Substance Abuse is the ingestion of substances and or alcohol in such a way that it interferes with a person's ability to perform physically, intellectually, emotionally, or socially.ⁱ

Substance means any narcotic substance, hallucinogenic substance, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any other controlled substance as defined by state or federal regulation or statute.ⁱⁱ

1. **Educational Program.** The Principal shall work with appropriate staff members to develop and conduct an alcohol and substance abuse educational program on a sequential basis from early childhood through grade 8 as required by Vermont law.ⁱⁱⁱ The program shall be consistent with the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Plan^{iv}. If the school

district is a recipient of federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act^v funds, the Act will be considered in the development of the alcohol and substance abuse educational program.

Parental notification is required for students participating in on-going small group sessions. Small group sessions are defined as any group numbering less than a full class size.

2. **Referral and Consent.** Parental consent will not be required for student participation in group programs conducted within the school that 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 school to perform such service or by trained school staff who have been approved by the school administration to conduct such groups.^{vi} No student under the age of 18 will be referred to an outside agency or any Student Assistance Program established by the school for substance abuse treatment without parental consent unless, in accordance with 18 V.S.A. @4226, the student is over the age of 12 and found by a licensed physician to be dependent on regulated substances or on alcohol, and gives his or her own consent for treatment.
3. **Substance Abuse Team.** The Principal shall form a Substance Abuse Team, which shall screen students who refer themselves and students who are referred by staff for suspected substance and/or alcohol use and/or abuse problems. The team will determine the need for further screening, education, counseling or referral for treatment in each case referred to it.^{vii} In addition, the Principal shall establish procedures for administering emergency first aid related to alcohol and substance abuse for the team to follow.^{viii}
4. **Staff Training.** The Principal will work with appropriate staff to provide training necessary to ensure that teachers and health and guidance personnel are prepared to competently teach or provide other services required in the school's alcohol and substance abuse prevention education program. Training will be designed to meet the requirements of State Board Rule.^{ix} The training will include a component explaining procedures that require immediate notification of the school administration by school staff of any violation of law, including the illegal possession or distribution of substances or alcohol.^x
5. **Community Involvement.** The Principal will work with school staff and community members to design and implement a program to inform the community about substance abuse issues and the programs and supports provided by the school to educate students about the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse and to assist students who are abusing alcohol or substances.^{xi}
6. **Annual Report.** In a standard format provided by the Vermont Department of Education, the Principal or his or her designee will submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Education describing substance abuse education programs and their effectiveness.^{xii}
7. **Notification.** The Principal shall ensure that parents and students are given copies of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions contained in the procedures related to this policy, and are notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory. Notice

to students will, at a minimum, be provided through inclusion of these standards and sanctions in the student handbook distributed to all students at the beginning of each school year or when a student enrolls in the school.^{xiii}

Legal References: 16 V.S.A. @909
16 V.S.A. @1165
16 V.S.A. @4226
VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices @4200
Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 (P.L. 101-226)

Cross Reference: Vermont Model Policy Manual

ⁱ Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices, Rule 4211

ⁱⁱ See definitions in 18 V.S.A. §4201; 41 U.S.C. §706(3); 21 U.S.C. §812.

ⁱⁱⁱ 16 V.S.A. §131(9).

^{iv} SBE Rule 4212.2 *requiring that education program be consistent with this Plan.*

^v 20 U.S.C. §§7101 et seq.

^{vi} This paragraph is recommended, but not required.

^{vii} SBE Rule 4212.3D.

^{viii} SBE Rule 4212.3B.

^{ix} SBE Rule 4213.2.

^x SBE Rule 4212.3C

^{xi} SBE Rule 4214 does not require this paragraph be included in the policy, though it does require that schools engage in community programs. This paragraph could be included in a procedure instead.

^{xii} SBE Rule 4215 does not require this paragraph be included in the policy, though it does require that the school's annual report include information on substance abuse education programs. This paragraph could be included in a procedure instead.

^{xiii} Section not required by statute, but recommended.

***Note: SBE Rule 4212.3B requires that each "...school district policy...establish procedures for administering first aid related to alcohol and substance abuse. The procedures will define the roles of the personnel involved."**

Legal Reference(s): 20 U.S.C. §§7101 et seq. (Safe & Drug-Free Schools & Communities Act of 1994)
16 V.S.A. §909 (Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention Education Curriculum)
16 V.S.A. 131(9) (Comprehensive Health Education)
16 V.S.A. §1045(b)(Driver Training Course)
16 V.S.A. §1165 (Alcohol and Drug Abuse)
18 V.S.A. §4226 (Drugs: minors, treatment, consent)
Vt. State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices §§4200 -4215)

Cross Reference: Student Conduct and Discipline (F1)
Search and Seizure (F3)
Interrogations or Searches of Students by Law Enforcement)
Officers or Other Non-School Personnel (F5)

DATE WARNED: OCTOBER 23, 2008

DATE ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 3, 2008