

Student Substance Abuse

Definitions

“Illegal and other controlled substances” are any controlled substance classified as illegal under Pennsylvania law or federal law.

“Prohibited items” means, for purposes of this Policy:

- (1) illegal and other controlled substances, medication, as defined in other policies governing medication, or any other substance which alters behavior or judgment; or
- (2) simulated medication or look-alike drugs (defined below);
- (3) anabolic steroids, except for a valid medical purpose as prescribed by a licensed healthcare provider and body building, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength, or the enhancement of athletic ability are not valid medical purposes;
- (4) alcoholic beverages; or
- (5) paraphernalia associated with (1), (2) or (3).

The term “prohibited items” does not include medication currently prescribed for a student by a licensed healthcare provider according to that student’s medically diagnosed needs, provided that the use of medication is by the student only pursuant to the prescription and otherwise in accordance with other District policies governing the use of medication.

“Simulated medication” or “look-alike drugs” are defined as substances that may be used to feign or mimic the appearance, actual use or effects of substances that alter behavior or judgment.

“Under the influence” means noticeable impairment of ability to ambulate, converse, comprehend or perform motor tasks as a result of consumption of prohibited items.

Prohibited Conduct

Detected evidence of use of, distribution of, possession of, or being under the influence of prohibited items within any of the buildings owned by the District, on school grounds, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off District premises shall cause the student or students to be placed on immediate suspension and delivered into the custody of their parents or legal guardian. Aiding or abetting any of the above shall be treated in the same manner. The proper law enforcement authorities will be notified of such action. Expulsion proceedings may be initiated as warranted.

Response of School District Personnel

It shall be the duty of all personnel, upon observance of the possession of prohibited items or behavior associated with or evidence of use of prohibited items on the part of a student or students while on District property, or engaged in school-related activities, to immediately report such observed behavior to the appropriate medical or supervisory personnel.

Upon reasonable suspicion that a student is concealing evidence of prohibited items, the administration may search the person, personal effects, lockers and automobiles of students, consistent with applicable statutes and case law and in accordance with Regulation 5405.

Prevention

The principal, together with school staff and parents and guardians, shall collaborate to prevent future student use of prohibited items.

Adopted: August 11, 1969
Revised: January 26, 1981
Revised: September 10, 1984
Revised: June 10, 1985
Revised: September 26, 1994
Revised: May 24, 1999
Revised: December 2, 2002
Revised: August 23, 2004
Revised: August 28, 2006
Reviewed: November 10, 2011
Revised: June 15, 2015