

*Student Substance Abuse*STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)

The District, recognizing the need to address the problem of substance abuse on a District-wide basis, supports the maintenance of a Student Assistance Program. The purpose of the Student Assistance Program is three-fold: (1) to identify students who are having problems because of substance abuse or due to mental health problems, (2) to intervene when appropriate either by personal contact or through support groups, and (3) with the involvement and approval of parents/guardians, to refer those students for appropriate help.

The Student Assistance Program is not a treatment program. Instead, the program's goal is to identify students who exhibit "at risk" behavior, such as suicidal intent, depression and substance abuse, and to offer a means of intervention by alerting parents or guardians to behavioral changes or related school problems and by making referrals to outside agencies or school support services.

STUDENTS SEEKING HELP

Any student who is self-referred or referred by anyone else and who seeks or accepts help with a drug, alcohol, or substance abuse problem, and who is not under the influence; not presently facing school-based disciplinary consequences; and not otherwise in violation of Policy 5405 at the time of referral is not subject to the disciplinary provisions outlined in this Administrative Regulation, so long as the student completes the required steps of their intervention plan. In such instances, an intervention plan will be developed and implemented at the principal's direction in conjunction with the Student Assistance Program.

- A. School personnel to whom a student reports a drug, alcohol, or substance abuse problem and from whom the student seeks or accepts help should consult with the student and make an appropriate referral to the Student Assistance Program, school counselor or building administrator.
- B. The Student Assistance Program will make an appropriate assessment and referral for psychological, medical or other types of help, as may be appropriate. If assessment or treatment appears necessary, the consent of the parent or legal guardian of the student shall not be necessary to refer the student for treatment (71 P.S. §1690.112), although the District will notify the parent or legal guardian of any such referral.
- C. Follow-up will be conducted by a member of the Student Assistance Team and the agency to which the student was referred.
- D. In accord with the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act, a student in the District who suffers from the effects of substance abuse and who is at least

fourteen (14) years of age may consent to counseling or medical care related to its diagnosis and treatment.

INVESTIGATION AND SCHOOL-BASED DISCIPLINE

Responsibilities of District Employees

- a. An employee who suspects a student of being in violation of Policy 5405 while on school property has a duty to ensure that the student is taken immediately to the building principal or designee. Suspicion may be based on smelling alcohol or marijuana or other circumstances leading the employee to reasonably suspect a violation of Policy 5405.
- b. An employee who suspects a student of being in violation of Policy 5405 while involved in any school-related activity on or off school property has a duty to ensure that the student is taken immediately to the staff member supervising the activity. After confirming the suspicion of violation of Policy 5405, the activity supervisor will immediately notify the building principal or responsible school personnel.
- c. District personnel are advised that knowledge of the investigation, diagnosis or treatment of a student's substance abuse is to be held in strict confidence.

Responsibilities of Principal or Designee

- a. A conference will be held between the student and appropriate school personnel to explore the reasons for the exhibited symptoms and to afford the student an opportunity for explanation regarding the exhibited symptoms.
- b. If reasonable suspicion of a violation of Policy 5405 exists, the parent/guardian will be contacted, apprised of the situation, and invited, where feasible, to offer possible explanations for the child's exhibited behavior. The building principal or designee shall also notify the Superintendent or designee.
 - i. "Reasonable Suspicion" in this context means that a school official can articulate a non-arbitrary, particularized suspicion for suspecting a violation of Policy 5405.
 - ii. The scope of any search conducted based on reasonable suspicion of violating Policy 5405 must be in accordance with Board Policy as cross-referenced below and applicable law.

- c. The principal or designee may also arrange for an examination by police or medical personnel to determine whether the student is under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol, or other substances, or whether the student requires medical attention.
- d. Upon admission from the student or confirmation from the investigation and/or examination that the student has violated Policy 5405, the student will be subject to disciplinary action as detailed below.

School-Based Discipline

The following disciplinary procedures will be implemented in connection with any violation of Policy 5405.

1. The building principal or designee will contact the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and may request that they come to the principal's office immediately.
2. The principal or designee will notify the proper local authorities for appropriate investigation and disposition, if applicable.
3. The student will be referred to the Student Assistance Program or its grade-level equivalent.
4. The student will be suspended from school in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - A student who is found to be in violation of Policy 5405 for the first time (except for distribution) shall be suspended from school for five (5) school days and will not be permitted to participate in school-sponsored activities for fifteen (15) school days following the infraction. Following an informal hearing, additional school-based discipline may be imposed. A student's agreement to attend, without undue delay, a counseling and/or treatment program, as determined by an assessment conducted by the liaison to the Student Assistance Program or a licensed substance abuse treatment facility, will be considered as a mitigating factor in determining whether additional school-based discipline will be imposed.
 - A student who is found to be in violation of Policy 5405 who has previously been suspended for a violation of Policy 5405 shall be suspended from school for ten (10) school days and will not be permitted to participate in school-sponsored activities for forty-five (45) school days following the infraction. Following an informal hearing, the matter shall also be referred to the Superintendent to determine whether expulsion charges will be brought against the student.

- Any student who is found to be in violation of Policy 5405 for distributing a controlled substance shall be suspended from school for ten (10) school days and will not be permitted to participate in school-sponsored activities for ninety (90) school days following the infraction. Following an informal hearing, the matter shall be referred to the Superintendent to determine whether expulsion charges will be brought against the student.
5. In the case of a student who is recommended for expulsion, the Superintendent or designee may, at the Superintendent or designee's sole discretion, hold such expulsion proceedings in abeyance, and may permit a student to return to school after a ten (10) school day suspension, if the student agrees to undergo a substance abuse assessment conducted by a licensed substance abuse treatment provider, at the parents'/guardian's expense, and to comply with the recommendations cited in the assessment and/or treatment plan without undue delay, as determined by the Superintendent or designee. Expulsion proceedings will be held in abeyance in order to provide the student with a reasonable amount of time to undergo the agreed upon substance abuse assessment and to complete a treatment plan based on the recommendations cited in the assessment. Written verification, provided by the treatment facility, indicating compliance with the recommendations cited in the assessment and/or treatment plan must be provided to the District. Upon receipt of written verification that the student has complied with the recommendations cited in the assessment and/or treatment plan, expulsion proceedings will be withdrawn against the student. Expulsion proceedings will immediately be re-instated against a student who does not undergo the required assessment and/or comply with the recommendations cited in the assessment and/or treatment plan within a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the Superintendent or designee.
6. Additional penalties for prohibited use of anabolic steroids are as follows:
- a) First violation – suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season or thirty (30) school days, whichever is longer.
 - b) Second violation – suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season.
 - c) Third violation – permanent suspension from school athletics.

No student shall be eligible to resume participation in school athletics unless satisfactory evidence is provided to the building principal or designee indicating that no residual steroid or performance enhancement exists.

Participation in School-Sponsored Activities

For purposes of this Administrative Regulation, "participation in school-sponsored activities" means attendance at (including representation of the school or District in) athletic events or other school activities such as club or academic activities. The student may still participate in graduation ceremonies but may not represent the school as an individual, such as a speaker or other program participant. Exclusions from participation in school-sponsored activities under this Administrative Regulation carry over from year-to-year except in the case of graduating seniors.

Cross reference:

Policy No. 5412 "Searches"

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