

Philosophy

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

Chemical 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) because chemical problems often interfere with behavior, learning, and the fullest possible development of each student.

Policy

No person shall knowingly possess, use, sell, transmit, or be under the influence of any illegal drug, regulated substance, or alcohol on school property or at any school sponsored student related activity away from school premises.

The school administration is charged with the responsibility of developing programs that educate students on the dangers of substance abuse. Programs should expose students to useful information and nurture positive attitudes and appropriate behaviors. Programs should be supported by ongoing inservice activities for school personnel and the community.

The school administration is also charged with the responsibility of developing intervention strategies that support treatment for individual students. The objective of intervention strategies is not to punish or judge a student with a substance abuse program, but to promote responsible decisions and rehabilitation, and to protect non-using students. The school administration will cooperate with law enforcement officials and outside support agencies on matters of substance abuse for individual students consistent with students' rights and related school policies. Treatment resulting from intervention and referral does not imply financial liability to the District.

Staff members acting in good faith in carrying out the mandates of this policy are exempt from liability for civil damages as provided in state law 16 VSA § 1165 which reads as follows: "No municipality, district, or officers, or employees of the school district shall be liable for civil damages in connection with the implementation of and carrying out the purposes of this section so long as they have acted in good faith and not knowingly in violation of the constitutional rights of any person."

Regulations

Definitions:

Substance refers to illegal, controlled, and over-the-counter drugs, and alcohol and tobacco products. A **drug** is any non-food substance that alters body chemistry, mood, and/or behavior when ingested. **Abuse** is the ingestion of a substance in such a way that it interferes with a person's ability to perform physically, intellectually, emotionally, or socially. **Drug paraphernalia** is any handmade or commercial gadget that assists or is used for the intake of a substance. Examples (include, but are not limited to): rolling paper, pipes, needles, manipulated lab equipment. The **Student Support Team** is a school based support group composed of a Building Administrator, guidance counselor or school psychologist, school nurse, teacher, and other staff members. The parents of the student referred for substance abuse support may be included members of the team.

Date Warned: 8/3/01

Date Adopted: 8/17/01

Legal Reference(s): 16 VSA § 909, § 1165

Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 (P.L. 101-226)

VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices § 4200

Cross Reference: Student Conduct and Discipline (F1)

Search and Seizure (F4)

Interrogations or Searches of Students by Law Enforcement Officials

Or Other Non-School Personnel (F5)