

STUDENT ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

It is the policy of the Leland and Gray Union Middle High School District that no student shall knowingly possess, use, sell, give or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any illegal drug, regulated substance, or alcohol on any school property, or at any school sponsored activity away from or within the school.^[2] It is further the policy of the district to make appropriate referrals in cases of substance abuse.

Definitions

Substance Abuse is the ingestion of drugs and or alcohol in such a way that it interferes with a person's ability to perform physically, intellectually, emotionally, or socially.^[3]

Drug means any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or any other controlled substance as defined by state or federal regulation or statute.^[4]

Educational Program. The Principal shall work with appropriate staff members to develop and conduct an alcohol and drug abuse educational program.^[5] The program shall be consistent with the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Plan^[6]. If the school district is a recipient of federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act funds, the Act will be considered in the development of the alcohol and drug abuse educational program.^[7]

Support and Referral System. In each school the Principal or his or her designee shall develop a support and referral system for screening students who refer themselves and students who are referred by staff for suspected drug and/or alcohol use and/or abuse problems.^[8] The support and referral system will include processes to determine the need for further screening, education, counseling or referral for treatment in each referred case.^[9] In addition, the principal shall establish procedures for administering emergency first aid related to alcohol and drug abuse.^[10]

Cooperative Agreements.^[11] In dealing with substance abuse cases, every effort will be made to promote responsible decision-making by the student involved and other students who are aware of another student's use or abuse. The focus will be to encourage appropriate medical and/or psychological intervention by trained professionals. The Principal shall annually designate an individual to be responsible for providing information to students and parents or guardians about outside agencies that provide substance abuse prevention services and to encourage the use of their services and programs when appropriate.

Students under the age of eighteen, who have been referred or who refer themselves to the Student Assistance Program may be seen individually by a counselor for purposes of substance abuse screening and consultation. It will be the goal of the Student Assistance Program to encourage the student to involve his/her parents or guardians at the earliest point in time.

Referral and Consent. Parental consent will not be required for student participation in the group programs conducted within the WCSU schools 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 sending schools and Leland and Gray to perform such service or by trained school staff who have been approved by the school administration to conduct such groups. Nor is parental consent required for referral to an outside substance abuse treatment program when a student who is twelve years of age or older is suspected of substance dependency, verified to have that dependency by a physician, and given her or his own consent for treatment.

Staff Training. The Principal will work with appropriate staff to provide training for teachers and health and guidance personnel who teach or provide other services in the school's alcohol and drug abuse prevention education program. The training provided will meet the requirements of State Board Rules related to staff training.^[12]

Community Involvement. The Principal will work with school staff and community members to implement a program to inform the community about substance abuse issues in accord with State Board of Education rules.^[13]

Annual Report. In a standard format provided by the Vermont Department of Education, the Superintendent assisted by the Principal will submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Education describing substance abuse education programs and their effectiveness.^[14]

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.^[15]

^[11] This policy is required by 16 V.S.A. 1165(c) and SBE Rule 4212. Unless otherwise noted in the following notes, the State Board rule requires that the policy include the elements contained in this model.

^[12] 16 V.S.A. § 1165(a). See also 18 V.S.A. § 4237 making it unlawful for any person to sell or dispense any regulated drug to minors or to any other person on school property or property adjacent to a school.

^[13] Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices, Rule 4211

^[14] See definitions of narcotic drugs and hallucinogenic drugs in 18 V.S.A. §4201; and controlled substance in 41 U.S.C. §706(3) and 21 U.S.C. §812.

^[15] 16 V.S.A. §131(9); SBE Rule 4213.1

^[16] SBE Rule 4212.2 *requiring that education program be consistent with this Plan.*

^[17] 20 U.S.C. §§7101 et seq.

^[18] SBE Rule 4212.3

^[19] SBE Rule 4212.3D.

^[10] SBE Rule 4212.3B. SBE Rule 4212.3B requires that each "...school district policy...establish procedures for administering first aid related to alcohol and drug abuse. The procedures will define the roles of the personnel involved."

^[11] SBE Rule 4212.3.

^[12] SBE Rule 4213.2. See also SBE Rule 4212.3C.

^[13] SBE Rule 4214 does not require that this paragraph be included in a school board policy. The rule does require that schools engage in community programs "...to inform the community about the school's alcohol and drug prevention education program, alcohol and drug abuse prevention issues, and community-wide responsibility for effective alcohol and drug abuse prevention." This paragraph could be included in administrative procedures developed in conjunction with this policy.

^[14] SBE Rule 4215 does not require that this paragraph be included in a school board policy. The rule does require that the school's annual report include information on substance abuse education programs. This paragraph could be included in administrative procedures developed in conjunction with this policy.

^[15] This section is not required by law, but could be included in a school board policy to ensure that adequate notice of the school district's policy and procedures related to alcohol and drug abuse is given to students and parents.

Date Warned: 5-13-2014

Date Adopted: 6-10-2014

Date Reviewed: 11-10-15

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)