

## CODE F7

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# ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

### Policy

It is the policy of the Newfane 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.

### Philosophy

This policy is concerned with the health and well-being of the students. The policy takes into consideration the individual needs of students with alcohol and substance abuse problems as well as the right of all students to receive an appropriate education in an alcohol and drug free environment. The Board encourages 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).

Community and schools share in this responsibility because chemical problems often interfere with behavior, learning, and the fullest possible development of each student.

### Definitions

*Alcohol and drug (substance) 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* means any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any other controlled substance as defined by state or federal regulation or statute.

### Implementation

The Superintendent (or designee) is responsible for implementing procedures to see that the following requirements are met:

1. **Educational Program.** The District shall conduct an alcohol and drug abuse educational program on a sequential basis from early childhood through grade 12 in accordance with the mandates of 16 V.S.A. §909, the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Plan, and the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (20 U.S.C. §§1701 et seq.).
2. **Cooperative Agreements.** In dealing with issues related to the use of alcohol and drugs every effort will be made to promote responsible decision-making by the individual involved and other individuals who are aware of another person's use or abuse. The focus will be to

encourage appropriate medical and/or psychological intervention by trained professionals. All relevant individuals may be given information about outside agencies and will be encouraged to take advantage of their services and programs.

No student under the age of eighteen will be referred to an outside agency for substance abuse treatment without parental consent unless, in accord with 18 V.S.A. §4226, the student is 12 or over and found by a licensed physician to be dependent upon regulated drugs or an alcoholic.

Parental consent is not required for student participation in group programs conducted within the schools which 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 schools to perform such service or by trained school staff who have been approved by the school administration to conduct such groups.

3. **Substance Abuse Team.** In each school the Principal may form a Substance Abuse Team which shall screen students who refer themselves and students who are referred by staff for suspected drug and/or alcohol use and/or abuse problems. The membership of the team and the procedures to be used by the team will be developed by the Principal and disseminated in writing to the building faculty and staff.
4. **Staff Training.** The District will provide school staff with training such that teachers and health and guidance personnel can competently teach or provide other services required in the school's alcohol and drug abuse prevention education program. Such training is outlined in State Board Rule 4213.2.
5. **Community Involvement.** The District will provide for a program to inform the community about substance abuse issues and about how schools are handling such issues.
6. **Annual Report.** In a standard format provided by the Department of Education, schools will submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Education describing substance abuse education programs and their effectiveness.
7. **Notification.** Parents and students will be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions contained in this policy and accompanying procedures, and will be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

*Legal Reference(s):* 20 U.S.C. §§1701 et seq. (Safe & Drug-Free Schools & Communities)  
16 V.S.A. §909 (Education curriculum)  
16 V.S.A. §1045 (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 -

*Cross Reference:* Student Conduct and Discipline  
Search and Seizure  
Interrogations or Searches of Students by Law