

NORTH SYRACUSE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY 5440

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Drug and Alcohol Policy

POLICY: 5440 EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/28/06

DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: 12/16/02 DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 8/2009

DATED: 8/28/09

I. PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education is committed to the prevention of alcohol and other substance use/abuse. This policy describes the philosophy of the district and the program elements the district will use to promote healthy lifestyles for its students and to inhibit the use/abuse of alcohol and other substances

II. POLICY

No student may use, possess, sell, or distribute alcohol or other substances, nor may use or possess drug paraphernalia, on school grounds or at school-sponsored events, except drugs as prescribed by a physician.

The term "alcohol and/or other substances" shall be construed throughout this policy to refer to the use of all substances including, but not limited to, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any of those substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs." The inappropriate use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs shall also be prohibited.

Additionally, the following persons shall be prohibited from entering school grounds or school-sponsored events: any person exhibiting behavior, conduct, or personal or physical characteristics indicative of having used or consumed alcohol and/or other substances, or any person who school personnel have reasonable grounds to suspect has used alcohol and/or other substances.

In order to educate students on the dangers associated with substance abuse, the health education curriculum shall include instruction concerning drug abuse for grades K12.

Any staff member observing narcotics possession or usage by students shall report the incident immediately to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall then seek immediate action. Any narcotics found shall be confiscated immediately, followed by notification of the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student(s) involved and the appropriate disciplinary action taken, up to and including permanent suspension and referral for prosecution. In its effort to maintain a drug-free environment, the district shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible with local, state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

III. AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The responsibility for developing and revising the administrative guidelines and procedures for this policy shall reside with the Superintendent of Schools and/or his/her designee.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Superintendent or his/her designee has the responsibility for enforcing this policy by communicating it to all relevant personnel and by providing necessary instructions and guidelines to the appropriate administrators.

V. REPORTS

All necessary or required reports pertaining to the implementation of this policy will be distributed, completed and forwarded to the appropriate administrative personnel.

VI. REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed triennially or, as recommended by the Superintendent.

VII. LEGAL REFERENCES

Board of Education Policy 5311.1, 9100, 1240.1, 9126
Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act, 2000
Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 U.S.C., Section 1145(g)

VIII. SIGNATURE BLOCK

Reviewed and Approved
by Board Policy Committee Patricia A. Edwards 8-28-06
Chairperson Date

Reviewed and Adopted
by Board of Education [Signature] 8-28-06
President Date

Received for Implementation [Signature] 8-28-06
Superintendent Date

Reviewed:

Status:

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

**NORTH SYRACUSE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES
FOR POLICY 5440 - DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE POLICY**

The District will use the following principles as guides for the development of its substance use/abuse prevention efforts and for any disciplinary measures related to alcohol and other substances:

1. Alcohol and other substance use/abuse is preventable and treatable.
2. Alcohol and other substances use/abuse inhibits the district from carrying out its central mission of educating students.
3. The behavior of the Board, the administration, and all school staff should model the behavior asked of students.
4. While the district can and must assume a leadership role in alcohol and other substance use/abuse prevention, this goal will be accomplished only through coordinated, collaborative efforts with parents, students, staff, and the community.

A. Primary Prevention

The intent of primary prevention programming is to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol and other substance use by students. The components of this programming shall include:

1. Primary prevention through early and regular health screening and inoculation programs done by the school doctor and nurse.
2. A sequential K-12 prevention curriculum that provides for:
 - a) Accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol and other substances, including the physical, psychological and social consequences for their use/abuse.
 - b) Information about the relationship of alcohol and other substance use/abuse to other health-compromising behaviors or illnesses such as HIV and AIDS, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, child abuse, suicide, and dropping out of school.
 - c) Helping students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol and other substances and to promote healthy life styles.
 - d) Helping students identify personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse and the steps needed for risk reduction.
 - e) Helping students develop a positive self-concept.
 - f) Helping students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce such stress through non-chemical means.
3. Training school staff, parents and guardians to use the information and skills necessary to reinforce the components of this policy and regulation in the home, school and community.
4. Community education about the issues of alcohol and other substance use/abuse as a basis for providing a consistent message to district youth.
5. Positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extracurricular activities. Such activities will be planned collaboratively with students, school staff, parent(s) or guardian(s), community members, and agencies.

B. Intervention

The intent of intervention programming is to eliminate any existing use/abuse of alcohol and other substances, and to identify and provide supportive services to kindergarten through 12th grade students at high risk for such use/abuse. The components of such programming shall include:

1. providing alcohol and other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services for students;
2. developing a referral process between district schools and community providers;
3. identifying and referring students to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substance requires counseling and/or treatment;
4. providing services to students in or returning from treatment to ensure that the school environment supports the process of recovery initiated in the treatment program;
5. providing individual, group, and family counseling targeted at students at high risk for alcohol and/or other substances use/abuse;
6. educating parent(s) or guardian(s) on when and how to access the district's intervention services;
and
7. ensuring confidentiality as required by federal and state law.

C. Student Disciplinary Measures

In addition to the penalties noted in the sections below, district administrators may be obligated to contact the police and advise them that a student had used, possessed, sold or distributed alcohol or other substances on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle.

D. Penalties

- 1.0 First Offense for a student possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or other substance on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle:
 - a. If the first offense occurs during the instructional day or at a school –sponsored activity, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted and directed to remove their son/daughter from school or the activity for the balance of the day or that activity.
 - b. The student will be subject to an out-of-school suspension for a period not exceeding five days. The building principal may request or be requested to apply for a Superintendent's Hearing if he/she feels that more than five days of suspension appear necessary due to his/her concern for the health and safety of that student or other students in the school. The Superintendent of Schools may recommend restricted instruction and/or placement in alternative instruction at any time.
 - c. The student will be immediately suspended from all school extracurricular activities for a period not exceeding seven calendar days.
 - d. Prior to a student returning to school, a parent/guardian – student conference will be held with the principal or his/her designee.

- e. The student will be required to participate in a substance use assessment conducted by a Student Assistance Counselor (in school) or by a certified Drug/Alcohol Counselor.

2.0 Second Offense for a student possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or other substance on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle:

- a. If the second offense occurs during the instructional day or at a school-sponsored activity, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted and directed to remove their son/daughter from school or the activity for the balance of the day or that activity.
- b. The student will be subject to an in-school or out-of-school suspension for a period not exceeding five days. The principal will request a Superintendent's Hearing if he/she feels that more than five days of suspension appear necessary due to his/her concern for the health and safety of that student or other students in the school. The Superintendent may recommend an extended period of suspension, restricted instruction and/or placement in alternative instruction at any time.

3.0 Sale/Distribution of Alcohol or Other Substances

Any student found to be selling or distributing alcohol or other substances on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school district vehicle will be suspended out of school for five days and be subject to a Superintendent's Hearing and possible arrest.

4.0 Use of Alcohol or Other Substances Off School Grounds

If a student is a member of an extracurricular activity and abuses alcohol or other substances at a function separate from school, he/she will be subject to suspension from that extracurricular activity.

5.0 Student Self-Referral for Counseling

If a student self-refers for assistance in dealing with his/her chemical use, he/she will be referred to support services through the building team. The student will be expected to actively participate in an intervention plan. The student may be subject to suspension if the student refuses to participate in an intervention program or fails to follow his/her recommended intervention plan.

6.0 Time Range of Student Offenses

The offenses set forth in this regulation will be documented cumulatively throughout the time a student attends the district.

E. Staff Development

The Board recognizes that if the administrative, instructional, and non-instructional staff are to be responsible for understanding, implementing and modeling the district's policy and regulation on student drug and alcohol abuse, they must be trained about the components of an effective alcohol and other substance prevention program. Staff training will be offered to include the following:

- 1. For all staff:
 - (a) an understanding of why individuals use and abuse alcohol and other substances,
 - (b) their role in implementing this policy, including how to identify students who exhibit high risk behaviors or who are using/abusing alcohol and other substances, and how to refer these students to the appropriate services established by this policy,

- (c) awareness of personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse so that they may identify personal use/abuse problems and seek assistance,
 - (d) awareness of the special needs of students returning from treatment, and
 - (e) accessible community resources and agencies that provide professional counseling, rehabilitation and/or treatment services related to substance use/abuse issues.
2. Additionally for teachers: the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the district's K-12 alcohol and other substance prevention curricula.
 3. For intervention staff: appropriate staff training for those identified to carry out the intervention function to ensure that their assessment of individual, group, and family counseling and referral skills support the needs of high risk, using and abusing youth.
 4. For prevention staff: appropriate staff training to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to support the application of prevention concepts through programming targeted at the school, home and community.