

ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS/STUDENT DRUG ABUSE

I. Philosophy

The Columbia Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide a disciplined environment conducive to the development of the maximum learning potential of its students. The presence of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs (henceforth identified as TAOD) in school, students with TAOD problems or exposed to them is a deterrent to learning and therefore interferes with the primary responsibility of in this educational system.

The Board of Education also recognizes that the use/abuse of TAOD is a serious problem with legal, physical and social implication that involves the school/community and seeks a partnership to develop a joint solution.

II. Policy Statement

The Columbia Board of Education shall not permit any student to possess, conceal, consume, show evidence of having consumed, used or offer for sale any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, any prescribed drug, "look-alike" drugs, or mind-altering substances. The exceptions will be students who need to take prescription or non-prescription medications and must adhere to the policies described within the student handbooks.

This policy is in effect for students while on school grounds or facilities; at school-sponsored events; or in other situations that are under the authority of the district or in controlled vehicles. Furthermore, this policy establishes a drug-free zone in any facility used by the district for educational purposes.

Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action appropriate to the age of the offender as described within the Student Code of Conduct (JFC) up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution. Discipline is imposed independent of court action. Students are subject to immediate suspension or expulsion proceedings for possession or use of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for preparing administrative regulations necessary to implement this policy.

III. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, "drug" shall be interpreted to mean:

- A. All dangerous controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Ohio statute;
- B. All chemicals which release toxic vapors;
- C. All alcoholic beverages;
- D. Any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy;
- E. Anabolic steroids;

- F. Any substance that is a "look-alike" to any of the above;
- G. All tobacco products including cigars, cigarettes, pipes, or any matter or substance that includes tobacco (i.e., snuff, chewing tobacco, etc.).

IV. School Procedures for Implementing District Policy

School procedures for implementing district policy shall include the following:

- A. A statement to students that the use and unlawful possession of TAOD is wrong and harmful.
- B. Standards of conduct are applicable to all students. These standards clearly prohibit the unlawful possession ' use, distribution of or being under the influence of any illicit drugs or alcohol as defined in Section III. This applies to students on school premises or as a part of any school activity or under school jurisdiction as described in the Code of Student Conduct.
- C. A clear statement that a range of disciplinary responses, including exclusion and referral for prosecution, will be imposed on students who violate the school code of conduct and a description of those responses. The responses may include, together with punitive action, referral to appropriate persons or agencies for an assessment. Such referral may only be made to qualified and properly licensed individuals or programs.
- D. Information about any drug or alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs available to students and provide procedures to direct students and their parents to appropriate programs. (JFCI-E)
- E. Requirements that all parents, students and staff have been informed regarding their roles and responsibilities by being provided a copy of the Student Code of Conduct regarding the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students.
- F. Notification to parents and students that compliance with the Code of Conduct is mandatory.
- G. A biennial review of the school program to determine its effectiveness, implement changes as needed, and to ensure that disciplinary responses are consistently enforced.
- H. A student assistance program which includes guidelines for the prevention, intervention, referral, treatment, and aftercare. Such a program must be comprehensive and confidential in nature addressing all issues affecting students, academic, social, and emotional well being in the educational setting which may negatively affect behavior and interfere with their ability to learn. Insure that a process is in place through which students may seek in confidence and without prejudice, assistance from the school concerning tobacco, alcohol or drug issues.
- I. A means for dealing with students suspected of drug or alcohol use or suspected of possessing and/or distributing alcohol or drugs in school, and ensure that the District's policy and administrative guidelines on Search and Seizure are complied with fully.

- J. Procedures for the proper documentation of alcohol or drug violations, conducting locker searches, and for Search and Seizures.
- K. Ensure the proper notice regarding the use of anabolic steroids is posted by the athletic director in each of the District's locker rooms used by the athletes in grades 7-12.
- L. Medical emergency and safety procedures will be implemented in the event of an alcohol and drug related crisis.

V. Education/Prevention

The Columbia Schools recognize prevention as the basis of a school program. A comprehensive, age-appropriate, K-12 prevention curriculum, consistently conveying a no-use message, is the hallmark of an effective prevention program. Substance abuse curricula must reach every student with an awareness of the needs of high-risk students, and attention to the cultural diversity within the district.

An effective drug education program is cumulative. Prevention will be integrated into existing curriculum such as health, home economics, psychology, social studies, and science. Specialized programs that increase self-esteem, develop peer pressure resistance, and teach problem-solving skills will augment the curriculum at specific grade levels. It is our philosophy that the Drug-Free Schools Program should promote healthy alternatives to drug use. Therefore, outdoor education activities, leadership, and other empowerment programs, assembly programs, and participatory activities promoting a drug-free lifestyle, all play a part in the prevention effort.

To reach these goals, staff training is essential on an ongoing basis. All staff members, including administrators, teachers, counselors, and support staff, must have a basic understanding of drug abuse prevention, receive a copy of the policy and sign verification that they have received the policy. The verification will be placed on file. Inservice training will include information on board policy, legal aspects, prevention philosophy, drug - use, abuse, and dependence, high-risk factors, influences of family, cultural differences, and available resources. Additional training will be required of staff involved with specialized programs. All staff will consistently teach that drug use is wrong, harmful, and unlawful.

VI. Intervention/Referral

It shall be the policy of the Columbia Schools to provide an intervention process designed to confront problem behaviors within students which may indicate alcohol and other drug use. Intervention strategies will reflect a collaboration of staff administrators, counselors and drug-free schools program coordinator. Intervention strategies will be initiated but not limited to the following circumstances:

- A. Students seeking help;
- B. Students exhibiting inappropriate, unusual or atypical behavior;
- C. Disciplinary action involving violations of this policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

A working relationship will exist among the district and local professional help agencies in order to enhance familiarity, communication, referral and follow up.

Students successfully completing an inpatient treatment program will not be penalized for days missed from school. Students will be recognized as absent due to medical reasons. Every effort will be made by Columbia Schools to maintain contact with the treatment agency and provide academic instructional materials. Additionally, every effort will be made by the district to assure the student's successful transition back into the school atmosphere.

VII. Support/Guidance

Columbia Schools recognizes the importance of guidance activities which provide support to students who are experiencing problems either directly or indirectly due to alcohol and other drug use. Therefore, programs such as individual guidance, support groups and mentorship programs will be utilized as a means of providing support and guidance to students within the school environment. Such activities may also be provided which promote drug-free lifestyles and support for students who are concerned in regards to a loved one's alcohol or other drug use.

VIII. Parent/Community

Parental attitudes regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs play a key role in prevention of drug abuse, therefore, parent involvement must coincide with school efforts in order for significant and consistent positive impact in regards to student alcohol and other drug use. Through the community arm of our drug-free schools program and guidance plan, parent education programs shall be made available to the community. These programs will focus on parental prevention and intervention strategies.

At the beginning of each school year, the Student Code of Conduct (JFC) is reviewed with every student as part of the orientation process. Compliance with these standards of conduct are mandatory and require a parent signature each year in order to ensure parental support and compliance.

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