

DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Danbury, Connecticut

POLICY

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE - STUDENTS

Adopted: 2/9/2000
Revised: 6/13/07

Policy No. 7-131.2*

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The Board is required by Connecticut law to prescribe rules for the management and discipline of its schools. In keeping with this mandate, the use, sale, distribution or possession of controlled drugs, controlled substances or drug paraphernalia, as defined in C.G.S. Section 21a-240, or alcohol on or off school property or during any school sponsored activity is prohibited. It shall be the policy of the Board to take positive action through education, counseling, discipline, parental involvement, medical referral, and law enforcement referral, as appropriate, in the handling of incidents in the schools involving the possession, distribution, sale or use of substances that affect behavior.

Alcohol stimulants, street drugs, including, but not limited to marijuana, heroin and cocaine; anabolic steroids, hormones and analogues, diuretics and other performance enhancing substances; include supplements and Creatine, are addressed by the policy and accompanying administrative regulations.

Definitions

- (1) Controlled Drugs: means those drugs which contain any quantity of a substance which has been designated as subject to the federal Controlled Substances Act, or which has been designated as a depressant or stimulant drug pursuant to federal food and drug laws, or which has been designated by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection pursuant to C.G.S. Section 21a-243, as having a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect upon the higher functions of the central nervous system and as having a tendency to promote abuse or psychological or physiological dependence, or both. Such controlled drugs are classifiable as amphetamine-type, barbiturate-type, cannabis-type, cocaine-type, hallucinogenic, morphine-type and other stimulant and depressant drugs. C.G.S. Section 21a-240(8).
- (2) Controlled Substances: means a drug, substance or immediate precursor in schedules I to V, inclusive, of the Connecticut controlled substance scheduling regulations adopted pursuant to C.G.S. Section 21a-243. C.G.S. Section 21a-240(9).

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- (3) Professional Communication: any communication made privately and in confidence by a student to a professional employee of such student's school in the course of the professional employee's employment. C.G.S. Section 10-154a(a)(4).
- (4) Professional Employee: means a person employed by a school who "(A) holds a certificate from the State Board of Education, (B) is a member of a faculty where certification is not required, (C) is an administration officer of a school, or (D) is a registered nurse employed by or assigned to a school." C.G.S. Section 0-154a(a)(2).
- (5) Drug Paraphernalia: means any equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing or concealing, or injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing controlled drugs or controlled substances into the human body, including but not limited to all items specified in C.G.S. Section 21a-240(20)(A), such as "bongs," pipes, "roach clips," miniature cocaine spoons, crack cocaine vials, tobacco rolling papers, and any object or container used, intended or designed for use in storing, concealing, possessing, distributing or selling controlled drugs or controlled substances. C.G.S. Section 21a-240(20)(A).
- (6) Child Study Team: members may include a school nurse, school social worker, school psychologist and/or school counselor.

Procedures

(1) Emergencies

If an emergency situation results from drug or alcohol use, the student shall be sent to the school nurse or medical advisor immediately. The parent or designated responsible person will be notified.

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(2) Prescribed Medications

The parent or guardian of any student who is required to take any prescribed medication during the school day shall so inform the school nurse or the person designated to act in the absence of a nurse. Such prescribed medication will then be administered to the student under the supervision of the school nurse or designee in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-212a and the applicable regulations and in accordance with any Board policies and regulations concerning medication administration.

Students taking improper amounts of a prescribed medication, or taking a prescribed medication without proper notification and supervision of the school nurse or designee will be subject to the procedures for improper drug or alcohol use outlined in this policy.

(3) Voluntary Disclosure of Drug/Alcohol Problem (Self-Referral)

The following procedures will be followed when a student privately, and in confidence, discloses to a professional employee in a professional communication information concerning the student's use, possession, distribution or sale of a controlled drug, controlled substance or alcohol.

(a) Professional employees are permitted, in their professional judgment, to disclose any information acquired through a professional communication with a student, when such information concerns alcohol or drug abuse or any alcohol or drug problem of such student. In no event, however, will they be required to do so. C.G.S. Sec.10-154a(b).

(b) Any physical evidence obtained from such student through a professional communication indicating that a crime has been or is being committed by the student must be turned over to school administrators or law enforcement officials as soon as possible, but no later than two calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Employees are encouraged to contact

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the school administrator immediately upon obtaining physical evidence. In no case, however, will such employee be required to disclose the name of the student from whom the evidence was obtained. C.G.S. Section 10-154a(b).

- (c) Any professional employee who has received a professional communication from a student may obtain advice and information concerning appropriate resources and refer the student accordingly, subject to the rights of the professional employee as described in paragraph (a) above.
- (d) If a student consents to disclosure of a professional communication concerning the student's alcohol or drug problem, or if the professional employee deems disclosure to be appropriate, the professional employee should report the student's name and problem to the school's building administrator or designee and Child Study Team.
- (e) If confirmation of drug use is required under the circumstances, the professional employee will send the student to the school nurse or medical advisor. The parent or designated responsible person will then be notified.

(4) Involuntary Disclosure or Discovery of Drug/Alcohol Problems

When a professional employee obtains information related to a student who, on or off school grounds or at a school sponsored activity, is under the influence of or possesses, uses, dispenses, distributes, administers, sells or aids in the procurement of a controlled drug, controlled substance, drug paraphernalia or alcohol, *from a source other than the student's confidential disclosure*, that information is considered to be involuntarily disclosed. In this event, the following procedures will apply.

- (a) The professional employee will immediately report the information to the building administrator or designee who will then contact Child Study Team Staff.
- (b) Any physical evidence (for example, alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia) obtained from a student indicating that a crime has been or is being committed by the student

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must be turned over to the building administrator or designee or to law enforcement officials as soon as possible, but no later than within two calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. C.G.S. Section 10-154a(b). Because such evidence was **not** obtained through a professional communication, the name of the student must be disclosed to the building administrator or designee.

- (c) Search and Seizure of Students and/or Possessions: A professional employee who reasonably suspects that a student is violating a state/federal law or a school substance abuse policy must **immediately** report his/her suspicion to the building administrator or designee. The building administrator or designee may then search a student's person or possessions connected to that person, in accordance with the Board's policies and regulations if they have reasonable suspicion from the inception of the search that the student has violated or is violating either the law or a school substance abuse policy.

Any physical evidence obtained in the search of a student, or a student's possessions, indicating that the student is violating or has violated a state or federal law **must** be turned over to law enforcement officials as soon as possible, but not later than within 3 calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. C.G.S. Section 10-154a(c). All school employees are encouraged to contact the school administration immediately upon obtaining physical evidence.

(5) Consequences for the Use, Sale, Distribution or Possession of Controlled Drugs, Controlled Substances or Alcohol:

- (a) Any student in the Danbury Public Schools using, possessing, manufacturing, distributing, selling or aiding in the procurement of controlled drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or alcohol either on or off school property, or at a school-sponsored activity is subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

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- (b) Students found to be in violation of this policy will be referred by the building administrator to an appropriate agency licensed to assess and treat drug and alcohol involved individuals.
- (c) A meeting shall be scheduled with Child Study Team for the purpose of discussing the school's drug and alcohol policy with the student and parent or guardian.
- (d) Law enforcement officials shall notify the building administrator in the case of suspected involvement in the use, sale or distribution of controlled drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or alcohol.
- (e) In addition to the prohibitors pertaining to alcohol, drugs and tobacco, the Board of Education prohibits the use of performance enhancing drugs, including anabolic steroids and food supplements by students involved in school-related athletics of any co-curricular or extra curricular school activities/programs, other than for a valid medical purpose as documented by a physician.

Student athletes who violate this policy, participating in CIAC-controlled activities shall also be declared ineligible for such activities in accordance with CIAC policy and regulations.

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Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes: Sec. 10-154a, Sec. 10-212a, Sec. 21a-240,
Sec. 21a-243