

NEPN/NSBA Code: JICH CHEMICAL ABUSE POLICY

RSU 26 RECOGNIZES THAT THE USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES IS A SIGNIFICANT HEALTH PROBLEM FOR ADOLESCENTS, OFTEN IMPACTING NEGATIVELY ON BEHAVIOR, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS FOR THE ATHLETIC FIELDS/COURTS, ACTIVITIES, AND IN THE CLASSROOM.

In order to promote the safety, health, and well-being of students, the Board endorses a three-pronged approach to address the issue of drug and alcohol abuse: prevention/education; intervention; and discipline. The Superintendent is responsible for developing appropriate administrative procedures, curricula, and programs to implement this policy. The Superintendent will undertake a bi-annual review of this policy and its procedures and report the findings to the Board.

A. Prohibited Conduct

No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, or other intoxicating liquor, nor shall a student manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, bath salts, any other controlled substance defined in federal or state laws/regulations, any look-alike substances, or any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance. Any substance legally prescribed by a health care provider shall be governed by policy JLCD – Administration of Medication to Students.

These prohibitions apply to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

Regardless of the level of violation of our policy, parents will be notified at the onset of the application of this policy.

B. Prevention/Education

RSU 26 will provide students with developmentally appropriate information and activities focused on educating students about drugs and alcohol and preventing their use. Programs shall teach students that the use of drugs and underage use of alcohol is illegal and harmful. Programs will also address how to resist peer pressure and address the legal, social and health consequences of drug and alcohol abuse. RSU 26 supports the education and professional development of administrators, teachers, coaches, advisors, students, and parents in the area of symptoms of adolescent chemical dependency, adolescent substance abuse, and their impacts on student participants.

In addition, RSU 26 recognizes that any policy related to the use of illegal substances needs to be incorporated into the context of a broader school and community effort to support prevention programs.

Teachers and administrators are to review the policy each year for the purpose of ensuring that students are cognizant of the ramifications if a poor choice is made.

C. Intervention

- RSU 26 will establish a team approach to intervene with students with drug/alcohol problems. Students will be assisted in addressing their drug/alcohol problems and in continuing their

educational program. Students will be provided with information and referrals, if necessary, to aid them in obtaining assistance from appropriate sources. Student records concerning such interventions shall be kept confidential as required by state and federal laws. Administrators, staff, and coaches will follow appropriate protocol in reviewing reports of violations to the substance abuse policy and investigate fully any and all accounts of violations with respect to any form of referral.

Self-Referrals

- In an effort to encourage a student who has a problem with illegal substance use, a voluntary referral by the student is recommended. Students who self-refer must complete an awareness program which will consist of an assessment of his/her needs for dependency (at the expense of the student/parent), counseling, educational programs, and a review. Parents will be requested to participate in a portion of this effort. This program will consist of at least 10 hours of study and assessment. Permission must be granted to allow the substance abuse counselor permission to discuss his/her case with a designated administrator or counselor. Students must agree to follow the program recommended by the substance abuse counselor. The self-referral will be completely confidential and acknowledged only by a limited group of support staff designated specifically to support the student.

Self-Report

- In an effort to encourage a student to seek assistance if the substance abuse policy has been violated, a person who self-reports a violation will be evaluated by a certified substance counselor (at the expense of the student/parent) and will complete a 10 hour drug education course provided by the high school counselor or school prevention specialist. Permission must be granted to allow the substance abuse counselor permission to discuss his/her case with a designated administrator or counselor. Students must agree to follow the program recommended by the abuse counselor. The self-reporting will be completely confidential and acknowledged only by a limited group of support staff designated specifically to support the student. Self-Reporting shall be considered favorably in any disciplinary actions taken for violation of this policy.

D. Disciplinary Action for Non-Voluntary Referrals

Use of / possession of an illegal substance

- A student found using or in possession of an illegal substance will be suspended from school for a minimum of 5 days and may face other discipline, up to and including expulsion, at the appropriate discretion of the administration and the Board, and in accordance with sanctions detailed in school unit regulations.
- In addition, a student who violates the terms of this policy shall be given the opportunity to receive intervention services as described above (self-reporting). Failure to cooperate shall result in full imposition of additional disciplinary sanctions. In the case of suspension or expulsion, a report on the status of the student after assessment will be prepared by the substance abuse counselor for review by the principal, guidance counselor, and parents prior to returning to school.

Selling/transporting/furnishing of an illegal substance

- A student found selling, transporting, or furnishing an illegal substance will be suspended from school for 10 days and may face other discipline, up to and including expulsion. IN addition, the student will be required to participate in intervention services as described above (self-reporting). Failure to cooperate shall result in full imposition of additional disciplinary sanctions. A report on the status of the student after assessment will be prepared by the substance abuse counselor for review by the principal, guidance counselor, and parents prior to returning to school.

Policy Communication RSU 26 shall distribute this policy and appropriate related information to staff, students, parents and the community on an annual basis through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators. School staff shall maintain close cooperation with public medical, legal and law enforcement agencies, and parents in the

prevention and rehabilitation of drug and alcohol abuse and tobacco addiction.

This policy does not exclude the involvement of, or cooperation with, the local law enforcement in any matters regarding illegal substances.

Legal Reference: 21 USC § 812 (Controlled Substances Act)

21 CFR Part 1300.11-15 P.L. 101-226 (Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989)
17-A MRSA § 1101 22 MRSA §§ 2390-2394 42 USC § 290dd-2 42 CFR § 2.1 et seq. 20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9); 4008

Cross Reference: GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace

JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety JKD – Suspension of Students JKE – Expulsion of Students JLCD – Administering Medication to Students JRA – Student Education Records

Adopted: 09/15/2015