

Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

In order to promote the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the physical, social and emotional well-being of students, this policy is designed to: aid students in abstaining from the unlawful use of alcohol/drugs; provide for early intervention when use is detected; and provide disciplinary action when necessary. *Compliance with this policy is mandatory.*

Any school staff member who has reason to suspect that a student has violated this policy is expected to report the incident to an appropriate administrator immediately.

Prevention

RSU 40 will provide students with information and activities focused on abstaining from the use of alcohol/drugs. Such information and activities will address the legal, social and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and will provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs and/or alcohol. RSU 40 will work in partnership with students, parents and local law enforcement to eliminate these risks for all students.

Intervention

Information will be provided, as appropriate, about drug/alcohol counseling and treatment, and programs that are available to students.

Rules and Sanctions

Students are prohibited from consuming, possessing, furnishing, selling, receiving, buying, manufacturing or being under the influence of prohibited substances before, during and after school hours, at school, in any school building, on any school premises, in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities, off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function (such as a field trip or athletic event) where students are under the jurisdiction of RSU 40 or at any time or place if the conduct directly interferes with the operation, discipline or welfare of the schools. Students are also prohibited, while at school or during school activities, from offering or accepting to furnish, sell, receive or buy prohibited substances at a location off school premises.

The term “prohibited substance” includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Alcohol;
- b. Scheduled drugs (as defined in 17-A MRS § 1101);
- c. Controlled substances (as defined in the federal Controlled Substance Act, 21 USC §

- 812);
- d. Prescription drugs not prescribed for the student and/or not in compliance with the Board's policy on administering medications to students (see Board Policy JLCD);
 - e. Any substance possessed or used for ingestion to produce an intoxicating effect (including but not limited to aerosols, paints, solvents and glue);
 - f. Steroids or any substance on the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' list of banned performance enhancing substances;
 - g. Paraphernalia – implements used for distribution or consumption of a prohibited substance; or
 - h. Any look-alike drug or substance that is described as or is purported to be a prohibited substance defined in this section.

Any violation of the terms of this policy will constitute sufficient grounds for student discipline, including suspension or expulsion from school, The School Resource Officer or other appropriate law enforcement authority will also be notified of violations of this policy.

This policy will be disseminated to students and parents/guardians through means selected by the administration.

Legal References: 21 USC §812 (Controlled Substance Act); 21 CFR Part 1300.11-15
20 USC §7101 et seq. (Safe Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act)
17-A M.R.S. §1101
42 USC § 290dd-2; 42 CFR 2.1 et seq.
20-A MRS §§1001(9); 4008; 6621

Cross Reference: JICH-R – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students Procedure
JIC – System-Wide Student Code of Conduct
JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JKD – Suspension of Students
JKE – Expulsion of Students
JLCD – Administering Medications to Students
JRA – Student Education Records

This is a required policy.

Adopted : September 11, 1995

Revised: July 7, 1997
Reviewed: May 7, 2014
Revised: June 6, 2019