

REGULATION

1998

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Students

SUBJECT: ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

General

Pursuant to Board of Education Policy 7320, the consumption, sharing and/or selling, use and/or possession of illicit substances, including alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, counterfeit and designer drugs, or paraphernalia for the use of such drugs, (hereinafter referred to as illicit substances) is a serious problem with multiple implications. Therefore, District response to the problem will have multiple dimensions. When used inappropriately, prescription and over-the-counter medications are also considered to be “illicit substances.”

Student involvement with the use, possession, sale, or sharing of illicit substances or associated paraphernalia is discouraged in general and is strictly prohibited on school grounds and at school functions. The following guidelines reflect the range of District responses to incidents and issues related to illicit substances. District policies and programs are aimed at prevention, intervention and support.

Disciplinary Consequences/Programs of Support

Pursuant to Board Policy 7320, firm disciplinary consequences will apply to any student who comes to school or to a school activity under the influence of illicit substances, or in possession of them or of paraphernalia for their use.

Once a school official has determined that a student appears to be under the influence or in possession of illicit substances, or associated paraphernalia, the matter will be reported to building administration. Students arriving at a school activity who appear to be under the influence of an illicit substance will be denied admission to the activity. In all cases, parents will be notified as soon as possible and consequences will be applied:

For any illicit substance related offenses, students will be subject to a short-term suspension (up to five (5) days), and to a Superintendent’s hearing to consider long term suspension.

Where an incident related to illicit substances includes the possibility of criminal activity, police will be notified as well.

Irondequoit High School Students

Should an IHS student be found guilty of charges at a Superintendent’s hearing, the period of suspension will be twenty (20) weeks for a first offense of possession or use.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, IHS students who commit to a prescribed program of support may have the period of suspension reduced by up to thirteen (13) weeks, depending on when the program begins and on how well the student adheres to it. The Substance Abuse Prevention Counselor will design and monitor the program, which will include the following components:

1. At least one (1) meeting per week with the Substance Abuse Prevention Counselor
2. Evaluation by an outside drug/alcohol agency and involvement in an agency-sponsored support program

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3. A minimum of five (5) hours per week of community service

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4. Good school behavior: attendance in classes and at tutoring; completion of homework; responsible behavior, etc.
5. At least two (2) random drug screens, spaced throughout the suspension, showing the student is drug-free
6. Participation in the Rochester Drug Treatment Court or an education/prevention program.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Counselor will evaluate the student's commitment and adherence to the support program and will make recommendations to the principal and Superintendent with respect to reductions or extensions in the period of suspension.

Dake Students

For Dake students found guilty of a first offense of possession or use, the period of suspension will be fifteen (15) weeks. Commitment and adherence to a program of support may reduce that suspension by up to the (10) weeks.

Components and procedures for a support program for Dake students are the same as those for IHS students, except that Dake students under 16 will not be required to attend the Rochester Drug Treatment Court. Instead, they will be required to research, write and submit an acceptable paper regarding drugs to the Substance Abuse Prevention Counselor.

All Students

Dake and Irondequoit High students who are found guilty of a second offense of possession or use will be suspended for a period of 40 weeks. Depending on circumstances, a program of support designed and recommended by the Substance Abuse Prevention Counselor and principal, and approved by the Superintendent, may result in a reduced period of suspension.

Sale or Distribution

Students found guilty of the sale or distribution of illicit substances will be suspended for 40 weeks and will *not* have the opportunity for a reduced suspension through a program of support.

Instructional Components

A sequential, K-12 prevention curriculum, with strands in the health, science, physical education, and counseling curricula, will be incorporated into the instructional program and will include:

1. Helping students to develop a positive self-concept.

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2. Accurate and age-appropriate information about illicit substances along with the physical, psychological, and social consequences of their use/abuse.
3. Helping students develop appropriate life skills and decision-making skills to resist the use of illicit substances and to promote healthy life styles.

In addition, the District and/or buildings may collaborate with outside agencies, programs, or speakers for classroom or assembly presentations that support the prevention curriculum.

Counseling

Counseling services for students who are involved with illicit substances (or who are at risk of becoming involved) will be available through counselors, youth counselors, and other qualified staff. Counseling may occur at any grade level, and may be on an individual or group basis, and may include discussion with parent, as appropriate to the needs of each student. Students are encouraged to refer themselves. Friends, parents, or school staff may also refer them. The goal of counseling will be to prevent or eliminate the student's involvement with illicit substances, minimize the likelihood of re-involvement, and move the student toward a healthy life style. Counseling may include referral to outside agencies as appropriate. It may also include assistance for students who are returning to school from support programs.

Students who engage in an approved counseling program prior to discovery of their involvement with illicit substances by school staff, and who remain free of prohibited substance-related behaviors, and who follow their recommended intervention program will not have disciplinary consequences invoked, except for any which pertain to eligibility for co-curricular participation. Amnesty from disciplinary consequences will remain in effect as long as the student remains faithful to these conditions.

Intervention

When staff members suspect a student is involved with illicit substances, the matter will be referred to the building PPS team. Upon consideration of the issues, the PPS team may initiate an intervention process. The student's counselor will manage the process, and will include other colleagues as appropriate (school nurse, social worker, school psychologist, administration, etc.).

The process may include:

1. Gathering and evaluation of data indicating or disconfirming suspected use.
2. Sharing of data with the student and his/her parents in a supportive context.
3. Offering recommendations to the parent and student.
4. Arranging for referral of the student to the youth counselor, other resources within the school, and/or outside agencies.

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5. Other actions which are likely to eliminate or reduce the student's involvement and promote a more healthy and productive life style.

In addition, the counselor of students returning from support programs will work with administration and other colleagues to provide a supportive context which will minimize recidivism and promote academic productivity.

Co-curricular Policy

At the 7-12 level, a co-curricular participation policy will govern the relationship of illicit substance issues to student participation in all co-curricular programs. The policy will be reviewed and updated as needed by the administration and staff of Dake and IHS, and will be widely communicated to students and parents.

Communication

The District's policies, procedures, resources, and programs regarding illicit substances, will be communicated to students, parents, and community through a range of media including published policies and regulations, newsletters, building-level handbooks, and other published material.

Staff Training

All professional and paraprofessional staff members will receive training and periodic refreshers on the identification of symptoms of illicit substance use and of the procedures for referring cases they observe through the proper channels. In addition, they will receive training on procedures for dealing with emergency situations.

All counselors, pupil personal services staff, and building administrators will receive training and, as necessary, refreshers in approaches to working with students involved with substance use and to working with their parents. Other staff members may receive such training as well. In addition, they will also maintain current knowledge of referral agencies outside the school.

Evaluation

Individual programs and curricula related to substance involvement will be monitored and adjusted through the District's annual program assessments, the regular ad hoc process and staff evaluation procedures.

In addition, under the direction of the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, the District will conduct periodic assessments of risk behaviors among students, including involvement with dangerous and illicit substances. Such assessments will include a comprehensive survey of all students, 7-12. The survey will establish baseline data, will chart changes and trends over time, and will provide a basis for comparison to other communities in the region and beyond.

Information from this survey as well as from other District assessments of program effectiveness, will help provide the bases for adjusting program priorities, adding or deleting components, and maintaining currency.

Revised: 7/1/03; 6/17/04; 12/06