

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG USE BY STUDENTS PROHIBITED

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear message to students, parents, and the community that the use, possession or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated.

- I. It is the policy of the Methuen Public Schools that the following actions are strictly prohibited and will result in the student being disciplined:
 - a. Student use of tobacco, illegal drugs, narcotics, marijuana, and/or alcohol on school property, of any quantity, on school busses, at school bus stops or at school-sponsored or school-related functions.
 - b. Student possession of tobacco, illegal drugs, narcotics, marijuana, alcohol and/or drug paraphernalia of any quantity on school property, on school busses, at school bus stops or at school-sponsored or school-related functions.
 - c. Being under the influence of illegal drugs, narcotics, marijuana, and/or alcohol on school property, on school busses, at school bus stops or at school-sponsored or school related functions.
 - d. Student sale, distribution or attempted sale or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, and/or narcotics on school property, on school busses, at school bus stops or at school-sponsored or school-related functions.

- II. The following procedures will be utilized in any case where a student is suspected of engaging in any of the prohibited conduct enumerated in paragraphs a-d above.
 - a. The student will be referred to the Principal, the Associate Principal, or the Dean of Students.
 - b. The Principal, Associate Principal, or Dean of Students will contact the school nurse concerning the case if he/she feels that it is warranted. If the nurse is unavailable, an alternative medical evaluation will be sought. If it is determined that physical symptoms may be present after speaking to the student and evaluating the symptoms, the nurse or other medical professional will make recommendations to the referring Administrator.
 - c. The Principal, Associate Principal or Dean of Students will, if reasonably possible, notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student.
 - d. The Principal, Associate Principal, or Dean of Students will inform the student, in the presence of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if reasonably possible, of the conduct prohibited by Paragraphs I (a-d), in which the Principal, Associate Principal or Dean of Students believes the student has engaged.
 - e. All students shall be provided with the due process in accordance with applicable laws and regulations which shall include, but not be limited to, the opportunity to respond to the violations of which the student is accused, prior to the imposition of disciplinary sanctions for violations of this Policy. Depending on the offense(s), the Methuen Public Schools will follow the procedures outlined in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Sections 37H, 37H1/2 and 37H3/4 and the student will be punished accordingly.
 - f. As a general rule, following the conduct enumerated in paragraphs Ia-d, the student will be released only into the care and custody of his/her parent (s), legal guardian(s) or other

- responsible adult designated by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
- g. Prior to the student's return to school, and as a condition of his/her return to school, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the student must meet with the Principal, the Associate Principal, the Dean of Students and/or other staff for the purpose of determining a specific plan of intervention and/or support services.
 - h. Should the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) fail to cooperate with school authorities at any point in this procedure, the school authorities will report to DCF and to other outside agencies as needed to assist with supporting the student.
- III. The Methuen Public Schools reserves the right to discipline students for drug or alcohol-related actions or offenses which are committed by the student during non-school time, on property other than school property and/or at functions or events which are neither sponsored by, nor related to, the Methuen Public Schools. This right will be exercised where the student has been charged with a felony relating to said use of controlled substance and/or alcohol and the building principal determines, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H1/2, that student's continued presence in the school will have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school
- IV. Students found in possession of illegal drugs, narcotics or drug paraphernalia while on school property, on a school bus, while attending school-sponsored or school-sanctioned functions will be referred to the police.
- V. For those students who are involved with extra-curricular activities in the Methuen Public Schools, violations of this policy will jeopardize their continued participation in those activities, as more fully outlined in the Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.
- VI. This policy shall be posted on the district's website and notice of this policy shall be provided to parents and students in accordance with state law. Additionally, the district policy shall be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in the manner prescribed by the Department.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L.71:2A; 71: 37H; 71:96; 272:40A

Adopted October 27, 1987

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Methuen Public Schools