

Drug and Alcohol Use by Students**Definitions**

1. "Controlled drugs" means those drugs which contain any quantity of a substance which has been designated as subject to 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 Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-243, as having a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect upon the higher functions of the central nervous system and as having 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, other stimulant, and depressant drugs. Connecticut General Statutes 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 Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-243. Connecticut General Statutes 21a-240(9).
3. "Professional Communication" means 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. Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-154a(a)(4).
4. "Professional Employee" means a person employed by the Bethany Public School District (District) 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 administrative officer of a school, or (D) is a registered nurse employed by or assigned to a school." Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-154a(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, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing any controlled substance into the human body, including but not limited to all items specified in Connecticut General Statute Section 21a-240(20)(A), such as bongs, pipes, roach clips, miniature cocaine spoons, cocaine vials, and any object or container used, intended or designed for use in storing, concealing, possessing, distributing or selling controlled substances. Connecticut General Statute Section 21a-240(20)(A).

Procedures**1. Emergencies**

If an emergency situation results from drug or alcohol use, the student shall be sent to the school nurse immediately. The parent/guardian will be notified.

2. Prescribed Medications

Students may possess and/or self-administer medications in school in accordance with the Board's policy concerning the administration of medication in school.

Students taking improper amounts of a prescribed medication or otherwise taking medication contrary to the provisions of the Board's policy on the administration of medication will be subject to the procedures for improper drug or alcohol use outlined in this regulation.

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Regulation 5131.6(b)

3. Voluntary Disclosure of Drug or 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. Connecticut General Statutes Section 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 (2) calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Employees are encouraged to contact 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. Connecticut General Statutes 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 administrator or designee who shall refer the student to appropriate school staff members for intervention and counseling.

4. Involuntary Disclosure or Discovery of Drug or Alcohol Problems

When a professional employee obtains information related to a student *from a source other than the student's confidential disclosure*, that the student, 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, 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 school administrator or designee. The school administrator or designee will then refer the student to appropriate school staff members for intervention and counseling.
- b. Any physical evidence (drugs, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia) obtained from a student indicating that a crime has been or is being committed by the student 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 (2) calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Connecticut General Statute Section 10-154a(b). Because such evidence was **not** obtained through a professional communication, the name of the student must be disclosed to the school administrator or designee.

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Regulation 5131.6(c)

c. Search and Seizure of Students and/or Possessions

A professional employee who reasonably suspects that a student is violating a state or federal law or a school substance abuse policy must **immediately** report such suspicion to the school administrator or designee. The school 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 the administrator or designee has 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 three (3) calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Connecticut General Statute Section 10-154a(c). All school employees are encouraged to contact the school administration immediately upon obtaining physical evidence.

d. Any physical evidence (drugs, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia) that is **not** in the possession of a student but is found in an area that a student may frequent must be turned over to the school administrator or designee or to law enforcement officials as soon as possible, but no later than within two (2) calendar days after receipt of such physical evidence, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The school administrator or designee will notify the Superintendent and will conduct an investigation to determine the source of the physical evidence.

5. Consequences for the Use, Sale, Distribution, or Possession of Controlled Drugs, Controlled Substances, Drug Paraphernalia or Alcohol

a. Any student in the District using, consuming, possessing, being under the influence of, 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, except as such use or possession is in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sections 21a-408a through 408q, is subject to discipline up to and including expulsion pursuant to the Board's student discipline policy. A student shall not face greater discipline, punishment, or sanction for the use, sale, or possession of cannabis on school property than a student would face for the use, sale, or possession of alcohol on school property, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

b. In conformity with the Board's Student Discipline Policy, students may be suspended or expelled for drug or alcohol use off school grounds if such drug or alcohol use is considered seriously disruptive of the educational process. In determining whether the conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Superintendent and the Board may consider, among other factors: 1) whether the drug or alcohol use occurred within close proximity of a school, 2) whether other students from the school were involved, and 3) whether any injuries occurred.

c. If a school administrator has reason to believe that any student was engaged, on or off school grounds, in offering for sale or distribution a controlled substance, as defined by state law, whose manufacturing, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting, or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering or administering is subject to criminal penalties under Connecticut General Statutes Sections 21a-277 and 21a-278, the administrator will recommend such student for expulsion, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(a)(2) and the Board's Student Discipline Policy.

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- d. Students found to be in violation of this policy may be referred by the school administrator, to an appropriate agency licensed to assess and treat drug and alcohol involved individuals. In such event, assessment and treatment costs will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- e. A meeting may be scheduled with appropriate school staff members for the purpose of discussing the school's drug and alcohol policy with the student and parent/guardian.
- f. Law enforcement officials may be contacted by the school administrator in the case of suspected involvement in the use, sale, or distribution of controlled drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-154a
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-212a
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221
 Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-233a through 10-233f
 Connecticut General Statutes § 21a-240
 Connecticut General Statutes § 21a-243
 Connecticut General Statutes §§ 21a-408a through 21a-408q
 Public Act 21-1

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