

Drug and Alcohol Involvement by Students

El Paso County School District Eight shall promote a healthy environment for students by providing education, support and decision-making skills in regard to alcohol, drugs and other controlled substances and their abuse. In order to accomplish this goal, a cooperative effort must be made among the schools, parents/guardians, community and its agencies.

It shall be a violation of Board policy and considered to be behavior which is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel for any student to possess, use, sell, distribute or exchange or to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances. The unlawful possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances is wrong and harmful to students.

For purposes of this policy, controlled substances include but are not limited to narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic or mind-altering drugs or substances, amphetamines, barbiturates, stimulants, depressants, marijuana, anabolic steroids, any other controlled substances as defined in law, or any prescription or nonprescription drug, medication, vitamin or other chemical substances not taken in accordance with the Board policy and regulations on administering medications to students.

This policy also includes substances that are represented by or to the student to be any such controlled substance or what the student believes to be any such substance.

This policy shall apply to any student on district property, being transported in vehicles dispatched by the district or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or district-sponsored activity or event, off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any district curricular or non-curricular event, or whose conduct at any time or place interferes with the operations of the district or the safety or welfare of students or employees.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions which may include suspension and/or expulsion from school and referral for prosecution.

Disciplinary sanctions for violations of this policy shall be in accordance with Board policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary interventions.

Situations in which a student seeks counseling or information from a professional staff member for the purpose of overcoming substance abuse shall be handled on an individual basis depending upon the nature and particulars of the case. When appropriate, parents/guardians shall be involved and effort made to direct the substance abuser to sources of help.

The Board, in recognition that drug and alcohol abuse is a community problem, shall cooperate actively with law enforcement, social services or other agencies and organizations, parents/guardians and any other recognized community resources committed to reducing the incidents of illegal use of drugs and alcohol by school-aged youths.

Whenever possible in dealing with student problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse, school personnel shall provide parents/guardians and students with information concerning education and rehabilitation programs that are available.

Information provided to students and/or parents/guardians about community substance abuse treatment programs or other resources shall be accompanied by a disclaimer to clarify that the school district assumes no financial responsibility for the expense of drug or alcohol assessment or treatment provided by other agencies or groups unless otherwise required.

Adopted: September 25, 1979
Revised: July 30, 1985
Revised: February 26, 1991
Revised: July 31, 1996
Revised: September 2000
Revised: October 26, 2011
Revised: August 29, 2012
Revised: August 28, 2013
Revised: December 5, 2013
Revised: July 30, 2014
Revised: January 27, 2016

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.* (*Safe & Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994*)
21 U.S.C. 812 (*definition of "controlled substance"*)
C.R.S. 18-18-407 (2) (*crime to sell, distribute or possess controlled substance on or near school grounds or school vehicles*)
C.R.S. 22-1-110 (*instruction related to alcohol and drugs*)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(I)(G) (*policy required as part of safe schools plan*)
C.R.S. 22-33-106 (1)(d) (*suspension or expulsion discretionary for the sale of a drug or controlled substance*)
C.R.S. 25-14-103.5 (*boards of education must adopt policies prohibiting use of retail marijuana on school property*)

CROSS REFS.: JIH, Student Interviews, Interrogations, Searches and Arrests
JKD/JKE, Suspension/Expulsion of Students
JLCD, Administering Medications to Students

Fountain-Fort Carson School District #8, Fountain, Colorado