

COMPREHENSIVE DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS POLICY

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The Board of School Trustees recognizes the serious consequences of substance abuse and addiction, not only for individual students, but ultimately for the entire school and community.

Substance abuse and drug codependency are associated with a wide-range of behavior problems. These problems are in direct conflict with student success in school and the goals of education.

The Board of School Trustees affirms their goal and intent to maintain high academic standards; protect the safety, health, and well-being of students; and maintain a school climate that is conducive to learning. Drug abuse and codependency stand in the way of these basic objectives.

Therefore, the Board of School Trustees directs the administration to develop and maintain a comprehensive drug-free schools program in all the schools in the district. Such programs will address the needs of students and will include those elements commonly held to be essential to an effective program, that is, prevention, early detection, intervention, outside referral, and aftercare.

GOALS OF THE DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The goals of the Comprehensive Drug-Free Schools Program in the schools will be:

1. To maintain a drug-free school environment that is conducive to learning;
2. To give students information and teach those skills that promote healthy life-styles and provide acceptable alternatives to substance abuse and addiction;
3. To identify students who are in need of assistance or seek help to overcome a substance abuse or addiction problem; and
4. To provide assistance to students to help them avoid drug use, eliminate drug use from their lives, or cope appropriately with abuse or addiction in their families through education, support, referral, and other forms of intervention.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

It is the responsibility of every employee of the Lyon County School District to help maintain a drug-free school environment. In part, this includes a personal responsibility to respect and uphold local, state, and federal laws regarding controlled substances and to encourage students to do the same. This also includes a responsibility to seek assistance for any student who is suspected of drug use or of selling or distributing illegal or harmful substances to others.

Employees who act responsibly, in good faith, and consistent with school board policy and administrative procedures will be protected by the school district from liability. To the extent consistent with district policies, all schools in the district and all district employees will cooperate with law enforcement and other community agencies and organizations in carrying out mutual goals to create drug-free schools and communities. These efforts might include enforcement of laws, student and family support, treatment, etc.

Principals will be responsible for implementing a comprehensive drug-free schools program in the school for which they are responsible. At a minimum, such a program will include:

1. A prevention program at every grade in the school, kindergarten through eighth grade, and in the health curriculum at the high school level. Schools will use the Board adopted drug education curriculum;
2. A student assistance program in the school to provide early identification, assessment, and support for students who are at-risk or in the initial stages of drug use;
3. A program of referral to the appropriate outside agency for students with serious substance abuse and addiction problem (to be paid at parents' expense); and
4. A program to provide aftercare to students who are recovering from the effects of substance abuse (including codependency) and may require assistance in the reintegration or socialization process at school.

Principals, with the assistance of the director of special services, are responsible to assure that staff in the school are properly trained to carry out and support these programs.

Principals will organize a *student care team* to coordinate and implement the drug-free schools program at that school. The student care team will consist of the principal, the school counselor, teachers, and, at the principal's discretion, other school staff and community volunteers.

As part of a student assistance program, students who receive an assessment and are recommended to participate in a support group by the *student care team* may participate with other students in a group that is designed to help them with their specific concerns. No student may be compelled to participate.

Before any student participates in a student support group, his or her parent or guardian will be given general written notice of school's intent to include the student in this activity.

Support groups will be considered a legitimate part of the students' program and may be scheduled during regular class time. However, consideration will be given in scheduling support groups to avoid interfering with students' academic time, as much as possible.

No personally identifiable records will be kept on students who participate in a student assistance program. No personally identifiable written information may be shared with other school employees, students, volunteers, or others, on any student who participates in a student

assistance program. These restrictions do not prevent staff from maintaining their own anecdotal notes, as long as these notes are not shared with others. These restrictions also do not prevent staff from sharing non-written information with other members of the *student care team*, as long as the information is relevant to the care of the students.

Because a student assistance program is not a treatment program and members of the *student care team* do not act in the capacity of therapists, students will not be identified by diagnostic labels or terms such as "drug abuser" or "chemically dependent" or "codependent." These terms should not be used in connection with any student in communications or references to the student.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Student discipline, as it pertains to use, sales, or distribution of illegal and harmful substances will be carried out in accordance with the Board of Trustees policies #JG and JGA.