

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

No. 523(a)

Board of Trustees Douglas County School District

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DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE

- I. The Douglas County School District established a Student Assistance Program (SAP) to provide education, assistance, and support for students affected by their own or other's drug and alcohol-related problems. Schools will make available to parents and students a copy of standards of student conduct regarding drug/alcohol abuse and the consequences thereof. The following guidelines will be adhered to:
- II. A student may be suspended or expelled for possession, use, distribution, or intent to distribute, and/or being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, including but not limited to, inhalants, designer drugs*, controlled substances (or a substance purported to be a controlled substance or mimic the effect of a controlled substance), prescription drugs, unless the student has been prescribed the prescription drug by a physician and in accordance with Board Policy 508, or inappropriate use of an over-the counter (OTC) drugs. The definition of possession, as used here, includes all aforementioned substances as well as drug paraphernalia containing drugs on the person of a student, in any school locker, or any clothing, purse, backpack, automobile, or any other item belonging to the student. The definition of use, as used here, includes any student with alcohol, inhalants, or other drugs in his/her system. The definition of distribution includes delivering or transferring possession of alcohol or other drugs to another person, with or without any financial interest in the transaction. Intent to distribute is the intent to deliver or transfer possession of alcohol or other drugs to another person, with or without any financial interest in the transaction, and with or without a verified transaction. Students found distributing a prescription drug, regardless of the classification of the prescription, must be suspended from school for up to ten (10) days pending a hearing before the Board for consideration of further suspension or expulsion. At the conclusion of the expulsion hearing, the student may receive a suspension or expulsion equal to time served up to permanent expulsion. A student distributing a controlled substance to another person may also be brought forth under NRS 392.466 for the Board's review. A student who uses tobacco is subject to a loss of extra-curricular activities as outlined in the first, second, and third offenses sections of this regulation and may be subject to additional

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consequences as deemed necessary by the principal, including but not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion.

A student may be suspended or expelled for committing any drug-related offense in school facilities, on school grounds, during lunch and break periods, at any school-sponsored activities, on a school bus, at a school bus stop, or on the way to or from school. This also includes conduct off school property that materially and substantially affects and disrupts school operations or causes school officials to reasonably believe that it will do so.

- A. FIRST OFFENSE: Parents and Douglas County Sheriff's Office will be contacted immediately upon verification of the violation, as per Administrative Regulation 529. The student will be suspended for ten (10) days. To reduce the suspension from 10 days to 5 days the student and at least one parent must attend a drug assessment program. Additionally, the student must follow any recommendation made during the assessment. The drug assessment information can be obtained by calling Education Services at 782-7179.

Student Athletes will forfeit eligibility to participate in the current sport's season, and the student will participate in a drug/alcohol assistance program and submit to periodic follow-up tests before being permitted to participate in future athletic opportunities. Additionally, students are subject to the penalties imposed by the NIAA to be found at <http://www.niaa.com> and outlined in the DCSD extracurricular clearance packet.

Students participating in co-curricular activities will be ineligible to participate in their activity for six (6) weeks beginning the first competitive week after the suspension occurs and forfeit at least one competition or performance. The student will participate in a drug/alcohol assistance program and submit to periodic follow-up tests before being permitted to participate in future activities. In addition, such students are subject to the penalties outlined in the DCSD co-curricular clearance packet. Four (4) weeks of suspension of eligibility

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shall be waived if the student successfully completes the program outlined in the co-curricular packet.

For a first offense, a student may be brought before the Board of Trustees for an expulsion hearing based on administrative judgment and the circumstances of the offense.

Substance Abuse Intervention Program: Any student who has been suspended from athletic eligibility for violation of the provisions of this Regulation and whose future athletic eligibility is contingent on successful completion of a Substance Abuse Intervention Program, or whose suspension of athletic eligibility may be reduced through successful participation in a Substance Abuse Intervention Program, shall complete the Substance Abuse Intervention Program developed by the NIAA in conjunction with the state of Nevada, Department of Human Resources Division of Child and Family Services Program available through the Juvenile Justice Programs Office.

A1) The student and parent agree to see the Douglas County School District Alcohol and Drug Abuse specialist or designee for a two-hour education and intervention consultation and follow his/her recommendations satisfactorily. Parents will be responsible for financing the activities included in the recommendations. Parents must provide a release of information to ensure that recommendations are followed to be eligible for a reduction in days of suspension. The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Specialist may confer with site staff in development of the recommendations, if required, to best meet the student's need. This consultation must be held within two weeks of the violation. If the student does not complete the recommendations during the time period listed on the family contract, the additional days of suspension that were waived will be reinstated and loss of eligibility for extracurricular activities for six competitive weeks will be reinstated.

A2) The student and parent will complete a video program specific to the nature of the student athlete's offense as demonstrated by the

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successful completion of a test on the content of the video by the student athlete and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

A3) The student will complete of a minimum of an eight (8) hour assignment selected from a list of ten (10) possible assignments by school personnel. Successful completion shall be determined through a meeting between the student athlete, his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), the head coach of the sport in which the student

athlete was participating at the time of the offense, and the administrator.

B. SECOND OFFENSE: Parents and Douglas County Sheriff's Office will be contacted immediately upon verification of the violation, as per Administrative Regulation 529. The student will be suspended for ten (10) days and the school administrator shall make a recommendation for expulsion to the school Board. In addition, a student athlete will be ineligible for participation in all extracurricular activities for a period of ninety (90) school days. The student shall be suspended from interscholastic competition for a minimum of ninety (90) school days. The student shall not be allowed to practice with the team or participate in any off season activities and must complete the requirements set forth in subparagraphs 1 and 2 below, in order to be considered for future athletic eligibility, which shall be determined following the ninety (90) day suspension of athletic eligibility by a group composed of one of the student's parents/legal guardians, the school administrator, athletic director, coach, and a substance abuse program coordinator.

B1) A substance abuse evaluation assessment conducted by a licensed alcohol and drug counselor at the expense of the parent/legal guardian of the student must be completed within ten (10) school days following the suspension and all assessment recommendations must be satisfactorily met before athletic eligibility may be reinstated.

B2) The student must successfully participate in all sessions of the appropriate substance abuse intervention program set forth in

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subparagraphs A1), A2), and A3), above, and successfully complete a minimum of ten (10) tobacco or alcohol/drug related support sessions.

- C. THIRD OFFENSE: Parents and Douglas County Sheriff's Office will be contacted immediately upon verification of the violation, as per Administrative Regulation 529. The student will be suspended for ten (10) days and will be ineligible for participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's high school career. In addition, a recommendation for expulsion will be made to the Board of Trustees.
- III. Because of the potential dangers to the student presented by his/her acute intoxication with alcohol or other drugs, students exhibiting evidence of acute intoxication, incapacitation, or a drug overdose in school or at school-sponsored events will be transported immediately to the nearest hospital or facility designated to provide detoxification services, followed by immediate notification of parents and police. Following his/her return to school, Section I of this regulation will be implemented.
- IV. All school staff members are expected to refer to the appropriate Student Assistance Program staff:
- A. Any student who exhibits a definite and repeated pattern of unacceptable school performance, which does not respond to usual and customary attempts to correct it;
 - B. Any student exhibiting signs, symptoms, or indications of an alcohol-or drug-related problem.
 - C. Any students whose self-disclosed alcohol/drug-related behavior places them or others at risk or in imminent danger.
- V. Students may also be referred to the SAP Coordinator/Counselor through self-referral or referral by peers, parents, or community representatives.

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- VI. An essential feature of the program is that students and their family members are encouraged to contact the building administrators and/or the SAP Coordinator/Counselors for help with alcohol and other drug related problems, with the assurance that such contacts will be handled sensitively and confidentially.
- VII. Upon referral to the SAP Coordinator/Counselor, he/she may consult with the student, parents, and/or staff members in an attempt to assess the nature and scope of the student's problem. This initial screening will result in one or more of the following recommendations:
 - A. No apparent personal or performance problem at this time; no further action is necessary at this time;
 - B. No apparent alcohol/drug-related problem at this time; however, referral to other in-school or community services is appropriate.
 - C. Further assessment interviews with the SAP Coordinator/Counselor are needed.
 - D. The student needs to contract for specific behavioral changes in AODA-related behavior, monitored through regular meetings between the student and the SAP Coordinator/Counselor;
 - E. The student needs to satisfactorily complete an in-school support group, after which additional recommendations will be made;
 - F. The student requires an in-school assessment, involving the student, parents, and SAP staff, conducted by a Certified AODA Counselor from an approved Alcohol and Drug Abuse agency in the community.
 - G. The student requires referral to an approved AODA agency for a professional assessment.

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- H. Assessment information supports the need for chemical dependency treatment in an inpatient or outpatient program in the community;
 - I. The student requires involvement in other community services, such as Alateen, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, etc.
- VIII. Except for violations reported under Section I, a student who self-refers to the Student Assistance program and who is making satisfactory progress in following recommendations will not be liable to suspension, extracurricular ineligibility, or other disciplinary action for behavior, which occurs prior to self-referral unless:
- A. The student discloses conduct already reported under Section I, as a witnessed violation, OR
 - B. The student fails to follow the SAP Coordinator/Counselors recommendations or to make satisfactory progress in the Student Assistance Program.
- IX. Evaluations concerning "satisfactory progress in the Student Assistance Program" will be made by the building SAP Coordinator/Counselor in consultation with the building administrator, support group facilitators, and other members of the Core Team.
- X. Participation in the Student Assistance Program is voluntary. At all times, it is the prerogative of the student and parent to accept or reject referral to the SAP Coordinator/Counselor or to community-based services.
- A. Regardless of whether a student accepts or rejects assistance, it remains his/her responsibility to bring school performance up to acceptable levels or face such corrective or disciplinary actions.
 - B. If a student accepts treatment for chemical dependency, that fact will be regarded as it would for any other illness with respect to the student's rights, benefits, and privileges.

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- C. When either the student or parent(s) do not wish to cooperate in the recommended program, the student's status in school will be reevaluated, taking into account the best interests of the student, the nature of the problem, and the health, safety, welfare, educational opportunity, and rights of other students and staff.
- D. Any student judged by the building administrator to present a risk of imminent danger to him/herself or others may be removed from the school pending the results of a professional evaluation.
- E. The School District regards chemical dependency to be a chronic, progressive illness, which is fatal if left untreated. Consequently, refusal by parents to seek treatment for a chemically dependent child will result in a report to the Nevada State Welfare for suspected child abuse/neglect under Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 432.
- XI. No records of the student's participation in the Student Assistance Program will become part of the student's permanent record or cumulative file. Diagnostic labels such as "drug abuser" or "chemically dependent," in addition to pejorative labels, are never to be used in documents by any staff members with third parties.
- XII. The use of prescription medications is to be construed as an exception to this regulation when used by an individual for whom they are prescribed, when used in the manner and amounts prescribed, and when used in accordance with school policies governing student medications.
- XIII. Parents of all students participating in the Student Assistance Program will be specifically notified of their child's involvement.
 - A. Parents will be informed of their child's involvement in the Student Assistance Program immediately in cases of violations of these regulations.
 - B. Prior parent notification and consent will be required in all cases before student contact with any certified AODA counselor who is from an

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approved AODA community agency and who is not a School District employee.

- C. In cases where students participate through self-referral or other avenues (Section IV), parents will be notified as soon as practicable. In those rare situations where the immediate notification of parents could be harmful or jeopardize the student's access to support, the SAP Core Team will document reasons behind their decisions to temporarily postpone parent notification and involvement.
- XIV. The Board of Trustees' protection from liability will be extended to all staff to the extent that they act in accordance with this regulation and observe the procedures consistent with it established within their respective buildings.
- XV. The responsibility for operating the Student Assistance Program will be in the hands of each building administrator (or his/her designee), who will interpret the District's regulation to students, staff, parents, and the community.
 - A. Final decisions regarding disciplinary action and the consequences of other violations of this regulation will be made by the building administrator in consultation with the SAP Coordinator/Counselor and other members of the building Core Team.
 - B. It shall be the responsibility of each building administrator (or his/her designee) to develop procedures consistent with this regulation to permit the necessary staff training and inservice for their implementation.
- XVI. The Board of Trustees will make available resources sufficient for personnel and training necessary for the implementation of this regulation.

[See Policy related to this Administrative Regulation](#)
[See also: Board Policy 508](#)
[Administrative Regulation 508](#)

Reference: NRS 392.466, 49.290, 49.291
Date Adopted: 8/8/89

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