

SUBSTANCE USE POLICY

EDUCATION AND PREVENTION FIRST

The health and wellness of our students is important to us. Adolescent brains are still in development and are impacted by the use of unhealthy substances. The substances covered by this policy are illegal for consumption by persons under the age of 21 or by anyone at any time, *i.e.*, illegal drugs. Because of this, we take possession, use, sale, purchase, or sharing of drugs, tobacco, vaping materials or devices, and alcohol on campus and off campus seriously. DePaul College Prep students represent our school at all times, whether on campus or off campus. Appropriate behavior and compliance with applicable laws are required at all times.

Student and Substance Prevention Education

Our first strategy at preventing the use of any of these substances is educating students, faculty and parents/guardians about the repercussions and health dangers of the use of these substances by minors. Each year, students are educated through health and wellness presentations in the first semester of the school year. In their freshman year, students take a Health course that includes a curriculum on the mechanics and dangers of addiction and vaping specifically. We invite parents to partner with us to prevent any use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping materials or devices, or drugs, by continuously educating all stakeholders in our community and discouraging this behavior by our students in your home. Specifically, we ask that parents/guardians:

- Talk to your child about your views on the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and vaping. It is important that they know your values. They will learn from what you say and what you do. Also, help them understand that other values matter: a set of values held by their society, which results in laws and rules at places like schools.
- Ensure that your child is aware that many college applications ask if the applicant has ever been suspended or put on probation, which may be a consequence for a violation of this policy.
- Communicate that school privileges such as participation in athletics, clubs, retreats, and social events may be jeopardized.
- Understand that the Illinois High School Association, the Chicago Catholic League, and the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference have very strict regulations barring the presence of alcohol at athletic events. Please note that schools that violate this policy will not be allowed to host IHSA events. Guests may not consume alcohol during athletic or social events on our campus where students are present.

Purchase and/or Serving Illegal Substance to Minors

In accordance with state laws and local ordinances, nicotine, alcohol, or marijuana cannot be purchased for/nor served to any person under the age of 21. Persons who serve alcohol to underage drinkers or permit alcohol to be consumed by teenagers in their homes not only endanger the health and well-being of those persons and open themselves to fines and serious legal consequences, but may also be engaging in conduct that leads to their child or other students being disciplined, suspended, or expelled.

CHEMICAL ABUSE REFERRAL EDUCATION (C.A.R.E.) PROGRAM

To educate students and their families about the health issues associated with drug, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping, we have created the C.A.R.E. Program. With professional assistance from the Peer Services Counseling Agency, students, their parents or guardians, and select members of our staff will participate in a joint effort to deal constructively with behaviors leading to substance use, abuse, selling or sharing. A student may participate in the Program voluntarily or will be directed to participate as a result of a disciplinary action taken by the Deans' Office.

RESPONSE TO SUSPICION OR INCIDENT

When presented with evidence that reasonably infers probable cause, the Deans will conduct searches of students, their bags/backpacks, lockers and gym/athletic bags, cars, and other personal effects on school property. Per the Illinois School Code, Section 10-22.6(e), students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these areas.

Evidence that a student uses, purchases, or is under the influence of alcohol/drugs/vaping materials, or is in possession of tobacco, alcohol, vaping materials and devices, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia on school property, at a school-related function, or off campus, will result in an investigation, parent notification and discipline as set forth below.

Other evidence of substance use violations includes, but is not limited, to photos, videos, text messages, SnapChat, Tik Tok, vape detector notification, or any other mode of communication that corroborates a student's involvement in the use, possession, or sale of these materials.

FIRST OFFENSE:

1. Parent conference with student, school counselor and Deans.
2. If a student is found with possession of substance use paraphernalia, a Saturday detention will be issued and a drug test will be required. If a student is suspected of substance use but no substance use paraphernalia is found, a drug test will be required. Further discipline is possible pending drug test results.

Parent Options for Student Drug Testing

- *Parents may choose to administer an over-the-counter drug test provided by DePaul College Prep, on DePaul College Prep campus and under the supervision of a DePaul College Prep administrator, OR*
 - *Parents may use a 3rd party off-campus testing service (referrals to be provided). Test results must be shared with DePaul College Prep within 24 hrs.*
3. Behavior Modification Agreement signed by parent, student and Dean outlining behavioral expectations for the student for the duration of the school year.
 4. School referral for mandatory participation in C.A.R.E. Program in partnership with Peer Services. See below for steps and timeline.

Step to be Taken	Role/Responsibility	Timeline
Referral initiated by student's School Counselor to Peer Services	School Counselor	Same day as incident
Initial call to Peer Services to schedule assessment	Parent/guardian(s)	Within 24 hours of incident
Client and parent(s) sign forms: Authorization to Release Information	Parent/guardian(s) & Student	Within 24 hours of incident
Email to DePaul College Prep School Counselor and/or Director of Counseling confirming assessment has been scheduled	Parent/guardian(s)	Within 24 hours of incident
Assessment conducted by Peer Services with parent(s) contribution and drug test given or scheduled.	Peer Services, Parent/Guardian(s) & Student	Determines by Peer Services
Email to DePaul College Prep confirming completion of assessment and indicating recommendations.	Parent/Guardian(s)	Complete upon completion of assessment with Peer Services
Participate in a prevention program or other treatment, as directed.	Student & Parent/Guardian as recommended	Determined by start date with Peer Services.
Notification to DePaul College Prep upon completion of program.	Parent/Guardian(s)	Peer Services to set completion date and parent/guardian to communicate date to school.

Peer Services Contact information:

Taryn Mayer Clinical Intake Therapist

Email : tmayer@peerservices.org

Phone: 224-252-0406 ext. 1737

SECOND OFFENSE:

- 2-Day/Off-campus suspension: the student does not attend school for the duration of the suspension. The student works with their counselor to manage school work and is expected to closely monitor Schoology. During suspension, students are not permitted to participate in co-curricular activities, school events, athletic practices or competitions.
- Parent/Student/Dean/Administrator Conference, which includes consultation with Peer Services, that may include additional required education through Peer Services, another treatment or mental health agency, or a private clinician at the expense of the parent or guardian.
- Development of a new Behavior Modification Agreement or treatment plan.

THIRD OFFENSE:

A third offense results in immediate expulsion.