

Policies

Westerly Public Schools Substance Abuse Policy

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Participation in Westerly Public Schools Extra Curricular/Athletic programs is a privilege. Students perform best when they follow reasonable training rules which include prohibitions on the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, steroids, electronic nicotine transmission devices or any mood-modifying substance producing harmful effects on the mind and body and impeding athletic performance. Every effort will be made to educate all students to the dangers in the use of these substances.

In addition, a high school student must abide by all the rules and regulations established by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and the rules and regulations of the Westerly High School. A uniform Substance Abuse Policy is necessary to insure that all are treated in a just and fair manner. Further, it is an indication of the serious manner that such matters will be dealt with by Westerly High School administration and/or athletic director.

Substance Abuse Policy

The Substance Abuse Policy for Westerly Public Schools is intended to protect students/athletes and help to make them responsible role models both on and off campus. Advisors/Coaches are required to implement this policy in the event that student non-compliance occurs.

Drugs, Alcohol and Other Controlled Substances

The purchasing, consumption, possession, transportation or distribution of alcohol, other drugs, and/or any controlled substance(s) is unacceptable behavior for any student in Westerly Public Schools Extra Curricular/Athletic Program. The use of or possession of electronic nicotine transmission systems would be prohibited and considered possession of substances.

1st Non-compliance:

Non-compliance will result in referral to the Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) for a required four (4) session program. In addition, participation with the activity/team will be suspended for seven (7) calendar days, starting the day after the student returns to school. Activities include all events/team functions including but not limited to, practice, games, film reviews, or weight room work outs. Lastly, the initial session with the SAC must be scheduled and/or completed prior to the student's return to the activity/team. If the infraction takes place in a time period that overlaps another season, the student cannot try out for another team until the suspension is completed.

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2nd Non-compliance:

If a 2nd non-compliance occurs, the student would be required to meet with the SAC to determine if meetings throughout the remainder of the school year or an outside referral is required. In addition, the student is suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activity/athletic activities for thirty (30) calendar days starting the day after the student returns to school. Activities include all events/team functions, including, but not limited to, practice, games, film reviews, or weight room workouts. If the infraction takes place in a time period that overlaps another season, the student cannot try out for another team until the thirty (30) days are completed.

3rd Non-compliance:

If a 3rd non-compliance were to take place, the SAC would work with the family to establish a safety plan moving forward. The student would not be able to participate in extra-curricular events/athletics for a calendar year. The student may also be referred to the Superintendent, School Committee and/or Juvenile Hearing Board.

4th Non-compliance:

If a 4th non-compliance were to occur, the SAC along with other school personnel would work directly with the family to establish a safety plan for the student. The student may also be referred to the Superintendent, School Committee and/or Juvenile Hearing Board.

Any student who was non-compliant in the previous school year will be required to attend a "check-in" meeting with the SAC during the first month of the new school year.

The Westerly Public Schools Substance Abuse Policy will be applied to all acts of non-compliance involving students.

Appropriate actions will be taken by the Administrator in conjunction with the advisor/coach. At times, immediate action may be called for in situations where consultation with other authorities is not possible. An advisor/coach may use his/her discretion in dealing with suspected acts of non-compliance. Parents will be notified in writing in all cases of dismissal. A written report(s) of all pertinent information of events and actions will be filed.

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Students and their parents have the right to appeal any dismissal for non-compliance with the Substance Abuse Policy to the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools. During the appeal process, students/athletes will not be allowed to participate in activities, practices or games. The appeal process will be conducted in a timely manner not to exceed three to five days.

Adopted: June 3, 2009

Updated: August 25, 2021