



JPS First Time Drug Policy Violation Program (FTDPVP)

Program Overview

The Jackson Public Schools (JPS) First Time Drug Policy Violation Program (FTDPVP) is designed to provide an alternative to long-term suspension or expulsion for scholars who are found in possession of illegal drugs for the first time. The program aims to educate scholars on the dangers of drug use, offer support resources, and help them reintegrate into the school community as responsible learners.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Policy violation must be the scholar's first-time infraction for drug possession.
2. Must be referred by the school administrator following an incident.
3. Scholars with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans will be accommodated appropriately.
4. Scholars classified as Seniors who violate the District's applicable drug policies in the Spring semester of their senior year are not eligible for enrollment in this program.

Exclusions:

This policy applies only to scholars found in possession of a small quantity of a controlled substance for personal use, as determined by the District, such as marijuana, a single marijuana cigarette ("blunt"), or a vape containing THC or other controlled substances. It does not apply to cases involving:

1. Possession of large quantities of controlled substances;
2. Evidence of intent to distribute, sell, or deliver a controlled substance;
3. Possession of certain high-risk substances, including but not limited to fentanyl, methamphetamine, or other similarly dangerous drugs as determined by the District; or
4. Any offense involving manufacture or trafficking of controlled substances.

If the drug policy violation occurs in connection with additional violations of the Scholar Code of Conduct (e.g., participation in a group fight, possession of a weapon, threats, or other misconduct), those violations will be addressed separately and may result in additional disciplinary consequences.

Participation in this program does not relieve the District of any obligation to make mandated reports to law enforcement or other authorities, nor does it eliminate or reduce any potential legal consequences that may result from the offense.

Program Components

1. Mandatory Education Class -Three Saturday Sessions

- **Attendance Requirement:** Both the scholar and at least one parent/guardian must attend the first Saturday session.

- **Format:** A 4-hour session covering:
 - Drug awareness and the legal consequences of substance use.
 - Strategies for resisting peer pressure.
 - Information on community and school support services.
 - **Location:** JPS Police Department Headquarters, Smith Elementary School, 3900 Parkway Avenue, Jackson, MS 39213
 - **Schedule:** Classes will be held monthly on the first Saturday, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, unless otherwise scheduled by the District.
2. **Behavior Contract**
- Scholars and parents must sign a contract agreeing to complete all program components, including attendance, counseling sessions, and compliance with school rules moving forward.
3. **Counseling Services**
- A minimum of three (3) one-on-one counseling sessions with the school counselor or a licensed professional.
 - Topics include coping strategies, goal setting, and personal accountability.
4. **Community Service Requirement**
- Scholars must complete ten (10) hours of approved community service to foster accountability and community engagement.
5. **Follow-Up Support**
- Check-ins with a school counselor for six (6) sessions post-program completion to monitor progress and provide ongoing support. Sessions must be attended within six (6) months of program completion.

Program Goals

- Reduce recidivism of drug-related infractions among scholars.
- Equip scholars with tools for making better life choices.
- Promote awareness about the risks of substance abuse.
- Foster collaboration between schools, families, and the community in addressing drug use.

Referral and Enrollment Process

1. **Referral Form Submission:** Administrators must administer a five (5) day suspension and submit a completed referral form within five (5) days of the incident. Forms must include:
 - Scholar and guardian contact information.
 - Incident details.
 - Verification of program eligibility.

2. **Documentation:** The administrator must provide documentation of the scholar's five (5) day suspension in the District's school information system.
3. **Communication:** Parents/guardians will receive details about the program, class date, and requirements.

Consequences for Non-Compliance

Failure to complete all aspects of the program will result in the scholar being reassigned to Capital City Alternative School or an alternative learning center in accordance with the Scholar Handbook and Code of Conduct.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the FTDPVP can be directed to the JPS Police Department or Office of Climate and Wellness at climateandwellness@jackson.k12.ms.us or by phone at (601) 960-8705.

This policy will be effective beginning January 5, 2026.

DATE: September 2, 2025

REVIEWED: August 12, 2025

May 12, 2026

AMENDED: June 2, 2026