No. 5430
SECTION: STUDENTS
TITLE: WELFARE: DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

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OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Board of School Directors recognizes the illegality of alcohol, tobacco and drug use, and/or possession by students. Therefore, in order to protect the school community from undue harm or exposure to drugs and alcohol, all controlled and other similar substances (see definition listed below) are prohibited on school district property and at any school-sponsored event at all times.

For purposes of administering this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Controlled Substance - Any substance listed as illegal or controlled under current applicable state laws shall include all:

1. Controlled substances prohibited by federal and state law.
2. Look-alike drugs.
3. Alcoholic beverages.
4. Anabolic steroids.
5. Drug paraphernalia.
6. Any volatile solvents or inhalants such as but not limited to glue and aerosol products.
7. Prescription or patent drugs except those for which permission for use in school ha been granted pursuant to Board policy.

Nonprescription Drugs - Substances commercially packaged and sold over-the counter in retail stores or distributed by mail, which either contain drugs of any type or purport to produce drug-like effects.

Prescription Drugs - Substances obtainable by prescription from a physician.

Paraphernalia - tools or equipment whose function is to aid a drug user in consuming or selling any type of drug.

Possession - Keeping or carrying in hands, pockets, wallets, purses or anywhere about the body, in locker or automobile, or in books, papers, or any other medium or container which a student may carry or transport.

Distribution - Giving, selling, or passing to other person on school property, on school buses, or on the way to or from school.

Possession With Intent to Distribute - Possession of any quantity of substance which could not reasonably or safely be consumed within the school day. Example: Possession of more than four (4) tablets of a nonprescription drug, for which the recommended dosage is "two (2) tablets every four (4) hours•.

Misrepresentation - Any attempt to distribute a substance which has been inaccurately described or implied to the receiver as a controlled substance, or has been implied to have a value other than its actual value.

Use (of an unauthorized substance) - Either the actual use during school or being under the influence during school hours or at school-sponsored activities after school hours or use prior to arrival at school which evidences itself by strong odor or any unusual behavior.

For purpose of this policy, under the influence shall include any consumption or ingestion of controlled substances by a student.

School Property and Authority

For purposes of this policy, school property shall be interpreted as applying to both real property and those items of transportation that would be utilized in traveling to and from school.

Authority is that which is granted to school officials in Section 1317 of the School Code of Pennsylvania.

The Student Assistance Program Team (SAP) is designed to provide a means for early identification and intervention for students who are experiencing substance abuse problems and/or who are potentially suicidal. The team is comprised of members of the faculty who have received training in the Student Assistance Program, guidance counselors, school nurse and a building administrator. The goals of the SAP Team include:

1. To assist the staff with its intervention efforts on behalf of students with substance-related problems or high risk students.
2. To reduce the incidents of school-related problems attributed to alcohol-drug related dependency and problems associated with mental health.

Regulations

The possession, use, distribution or attempted distribution of all unauthorized substances is strictly prohibited. This includes alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, paraphernalia, prescription and nonprescription drugs at all times and in all places, except as indicated herein.

Anabolic Steroids

The Board prohibits the use of anabolic steroids by students involved in school-related athletics, except for a valid medical purpose. Body building and muscle enhancement of athletic ability are not valid medical purposes. Human Growth Hormone (HGH) shall not be included as an anabolic steroid.

Students shall be made aware of the dangers of steroid use, that anabolic steroids are classified as controlled substances, and that their use, unauthorized possession, purchase, or sale could subject students to suspension, expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

The following minimum penalties are prescribed for any student athlete found in violation of the prohibited use of anabolic steroids.

1. For a first violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season.
2. For a second violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season.

3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from school athletics.

No student shall be eligible to resume participation in school athletics unless a medical determination has been submitted, verifying that no residual evidence of steroids exists.

Reasonable Suspicion/Testing

If based on the student's behavior, medical symptoms, vital signs or other observable factors, the building principal has reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of a controlled substance, the student may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing. The testing may include but is not limited to the analysis of blood, urine, saliva, or the administration of a Breathalyzer test.

Search/Seizure

School administrators and professional employees are hereby authorized to:

1. Conduct routine searches of student lockers and desks.
2. Conduct thorough searches of students, in the presence of a witness, in any case of suspected possession of unauthorized substances.
3. Instruct students, at any time or place, to empty the contents of their pockets and/or reveal other areas within clothing, wallets, purses, etc. where the student may be suspected of keeping unauthorized substances.
    a) If a student fails to do so, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be called to assist and/or permit a search.
    b) If parent(s)/guardian(s) refuse or cannot be contacted, the police shall be called to conduct the search.

4. Confiscate any unauthorized substances or material of questionable purpose.

Offenses/Penalties

1. Possession and/or use.

A. Alcohol, controlled substance, unauthorized use of prescription drugs, or paraphernalia:

First Offense:

- Notification to parent(s)/guardian(s) and police.
- Administrative hearing with parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Suspension, in or out-of-school, for up to ten (10) days.
- Referral to SAP.
- Out-of-school suspension pending formal hearing with Board of School Directors.
- Change in educational placement for a minimum of forty-five (45) days (Alternative School).

Second and Subsequent Offenses:

- Out-of-school suspension pending formal hearing with Board of School Directors.
- Change in educational placement for a minimum of ninety (90) days (Alternative School).

B. Other unauthorized substances (including tobacco, or nonprescription drugs):

First Offense:

- Notification to parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Up to three (3) days suspension.
- Referral to SAP.

Second Offense:

- Conference with parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Up to five (5) days suspension.

Third and Subsequent Offenses:

- Administrative hearing with parent(s)/guardian(s).

- Up to ten (10) days suspension.
- Suspension from school, pending hearing with Board of School Directors.

2. Possession with intent to distribute or distribution.

A. Alcohol, controlled substance, unauthorized use of prescription drugs, or paraphernalia:

First Offense:

- Notification to parent(s}/guardian(s} and police.
- Out-of-school suspension pending formal hearing before the Board of School Directors.
- Change in educational placement for a minimum of ninety (90) days (Alternative School}.
- Referral to SAP.

Second Offense:

- Notification to parent(s}/guardian(s} and police.
- Out-of-school suspension pending formal hearing before the Board of School Directors.
- Change in educational placement for a minimum of one (1) year (Alternative School)
- Referral to SAP.

B. Other unauthorized substances:

First Offense:

- Administrative hearing with parent(s}/guardian(s) and police.

- Suspension up to ten (10} days.
- Referral to SAP.
- Out-of-school suspension pending formal hearing with Board of School Directors.
- Change in educational placement for a minimum of forty-five (45) days (Alternative School}.

Second and Subsequent Offenses:

- Out-of-school suspension pending Board of School Directors hearing.
- Change in educational p placement for a minimum of ninety (90) days (Alternative School}.

C. Misrepresentation:

First Offense:

- Administrative hearing with parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Notification to police.
- Suspension up to ten (10) days.
- Referral to SAP.
- Out-of-school suspension pending formal hearing with Board of School Directors.
- Change in educational placement for a minimum of forty-five (45) days (Alternative School).

Second and Subsequent Offenses:

- Out-of-school suspension pending Board of School Directors hearing.
- Change in educational p placement for a minimum of ninety (90) days (Alternative School).

In cases where suggested drug and alcohol abuse may exist, the Student Assistant Program Team has the responsibility to monitor student behaviors.

In cases where there is evidence of drug and alcohol abuse, the Student Assistance Program Team will recommend to the administration that the student be required to seek professional assessment at an appropriate community agency and to abide by the agency's recommendations. Failure to agree to the agency assessment or to abide by the agency's recommendations will result in a referral to a School Board Formal Expulsion hearing.

Waiver Clause

The Board of School Directors will exercise the privilege to waive the penalties associated with this policy at its discretion.

The Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to exercise the privilege to waive the penalties of this policy.

Reporting

The Board and the administration will protect the anonymity of any student or adult informant leading to the apprehension of any person involved in the violation of this policy.

Incidents of possession, use and sale of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and associated items in violation of this policy by any person on school property shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once a year.