

POLICY	417	Page: 1 of 3
SERIES	400	Personnel
SUBJECT	417	Chemical Use and Abuse
Adopted		February 27, 2001
Revised		June 8, 2004; August 12, 2014; March 7, 2017; November 7, 2022; December 16, 2025
Reviewed		July 2026

I. PURPOSE

The School Board recognizes that chemical use and abuse constitutes a grave threat to the physical and mental well-being of students and employees and significantly impedes the learning process. Chemical use and abuse also create significant problems for society in general. The School Board believes that the public school has a role in education, intervention, and prevention of chemical use and abuse. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal to prevent chemical use and abuse by providing procedures for education and intervention.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Use or possession of controlled substances, toxic substances, alcohol, and medical cannabis is prohibited in the school setting in accordance with school district policies with respect to a Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
- B. It is the policy of this school district to provide an instructional program in every elementary and secondary school in chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency.
- C. The school district shall establish and maintain in every school a chemical abuse preassessment team. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
- D. The school district shall establish and maintain a program for employees

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Chemical abuse," as applied for students means use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, except as medically prescribed, in a manner that induces mental, emotional, or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional or socially disordering behavior, to the extent that the student's normal function in academic, school, or social activities is chronically impaired.
- B. "Controlled substances," as applied to the chemical abuse assessment of students, means a drug, substance, or immediate precursor in Schedules I through V of Minnesota Statutes section 152.02 and "marijuana" as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 152.01, subdivision 9 but not distilled spirits, wine, malt beverages, intoxicating liquors or tobacco. As otherwise defined in this policy, "controlled substances" include narcotic drugs,

hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code section 812, including analogues and look-alike drugs.

- C. “Drug prevention” means prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation referral, recovery support services, or education related to the illegal use of drugs, such as raising awareness about the consequences of drug use that are evidence based.
- D. “Teacher” means all persons employed in a public school or education district or by a service cooperative as members of the instructional, supervisory, and support staff including superintendents, principals, supervisors, secondary vocational and other classroom teachers, librarians, counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, school social workers, audio-visual directors and coordinators, recreation personnel, media generalists, media supervisors, and speech therapists.

IV. STUDENTS

A. Programs and Activities

- 1. Every school shall provide programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug free environments that support student academic achievements.

B. Reports of Use, Possession, or Transfer of Alcohol or a Controlled Substance

- 1. A teacher in a nonpublic school participating in a school district chemical use program, or a public school teacher, who knows or has reason to believe that a student is using, possessing, or transferring alcohol or a controlled substance while on the school premises or involved in school-related activities, shall immediately notify the school's principal or designee.
- 2. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution or sale of chemicals may be suspended and proposed for expulsion in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes section 121A.40-121A.56.

C. Preassessment Team

- 1. Every school shall have a chemical abuse preassessment team designated by the Superintendent or designee. The team will be composed of classroom teachers, administrators, and other appropriate professional staff to the extent they exist in each school, such as the school nurse, school counselor or psychologist, social worker, chemical abuse specialist, or others.
- 2. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
- 3. Within 45 days after receiving an individual reported case, the team shall make a determination whether to provide the student and, in the case of a minor, the student's

parents or guardians with information about school and community services in connection with chemical abuse.

D. Data Practices

1. Student data may be disclosed without consent in health and safety emergencies pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.32 and applicable federal law and regulations.
2. Destruction of Records
 - a. If the preassessment team decides not to provide a student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents or guardians with information about school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than 6 (six) months after the determination is made.
 - b. If the team decides to provide the student and, in the case of a minor or a dependent student, the student's parents or guardians with information about school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than 6 (six) months after the student is no longer enrolled in the district.
 - c. Destruction of records identifying individual students shall be governed by paragraph IV.E.2. notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes section 138.163 (Preservation and Disposal of Public Records).

E. Consent

Any minor may give effective consent for medical, mental and other health services to determine the presence of conditions associated with alcohol and other drug abuse, and the consent of no other person is required.

V. EMPLOYEES

- A. The Superintendent or designee shall notify employees:
 1. Of the school district's drug-free workplace/drug-free school policy.
 2. Of any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and/or employee assistance programs.
 3. The penalties that may be imposed on employees for drug abuse violations.
- B. The school district shall notify a federal granting agency required to be notified under the Drug-Free Workplace Act within ten (10) days after receiving notice from the employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of any criminal drug statute conviction occurring in the workplace.