

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE BY STUDENTS

The following document outlines policy on student use of alcohol and other drugs in the school district. This policy is in effect on premises owned, leased, or maintained by West Central School District, at all school-related activities, in vehicles used to transport students to and from, and in vehicles parked on school property. Students and parents/guardians are expected to know and understand the policy provisions and its mandatory nature. A copy of the policy will be provided to all students and parents.

Policy

A student shall not possess, use, distribute, transfer, conceal, sell, attempt to sell, deliver, give, exchange, or be under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs, narcotics, or dangerous or illegal chemical substances. Students shall not engage in alcohol or drug use/abuse nor possess paraphernalia specific to the use of alcohol and/or drugs.

Students who use prescription drugs or medical cannabis authorized by a licensed physician do not violate this policy if the student conforms to the prescription and appropriate school policies.

Disciplinary Sanctions and Implementation Procedures

The following procedures will be used in dealing with possession, use or being under the influence of alcohol and other drugs. State and federal regulations regarding special education students will be followed.

A. First Offense:

1. The administration will notify the parents/guardians and schedule a conference;
2. The administration may suspend the student for up to ten (10) days in compliance with student due process procedure;
3. The administration shall notify law enforcement authorities.

The suspension of a student who completes a drug/alcohol assessment from a certified or licensed addiction counselor or licensed physician trained in chemical dependence and recommended program, if any, will be commuted to three (3) days, provided the assessment and the program are completed, unless good cause is shown to and approved by the administration, within twenty (20) school days. Fees for this assessment and treatment are the responsibility of the student and family.

Upon appropriate authorization, the agency or professional will notify the school administration in writing that the student has been evaluated and successfully, completed any recommended treatment program.

B. Second Offense:

1. The administration will contact the parents/guardians and schedule a conference.
2. The administration shall notify law enforcement authorities.
3. The administration shall suspend the student for ten (10) days in compliance with student due process procedures.

A long-term suspension hearing shall be scheduled before the school board pursuant to due process rules for long-term suspension. The administration will recommend to the school board that the student be suspended for ninety (90) school days. The ninety (90) day suspension for a second offense may be reduced to ten (10) school days if the student completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program. Fees for this assessment and/or treatment are the responsibility of the student and family.

C. Subsequent Offense:

1. The administration will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) and schedule a conference.
2. The administration shall notify law enforcement authorities.
3. The administration shall suspend for ten (10) days in compliance with student due process procedures.
4. An expulsion hearing shall be scheduled before the school board pursuant to due process rules for expulsion. The administration will recommend to the school board that the student be expelled.

D. Distributing (supplying free or selling) Alcohol and Other Drugs or Material Represented to be a Controlled Substance (all occurrences):

1. The administration will contact the parents/guardians and schedule a conference.
2. The administration shall notify law enforcement authorities.
3. The administration shall suspend for then (10) days in compliance with student due process procedures.
4. A long-term suspension hearing shall be scheduled before the school board pursuant to due process rules for long-term suspension. The administration will recommend to the school board that the student be suspended for up to (90) school days.
5. A second offence for distribution alcohol or drugs shall result in an expulsion hearing being scheduled before the school board and the administration will recommend the student be expelled for one year.
6. State and federal regulations regarding special education students will be followed.

Use of Alcohol Sensors

In keeping with its commitment to protect all pupils and the school community from the harm of alcohol use, the Board authorizes the Superintendent, Principals, and designee(s), to use a portable breath test (PBT) and passive breath alcohol sensor device (PBASD) to screen for evidence of breath alcohol.

The purpose for using a PBT and PBASD is to protect pupils who may be under the influence of alcohol, other pupils, staff and community members attending school events and to deter the use of alcohol by pupils. As PBT and PBASD implementation is intended primarily as a deterrent to student and youth alcohol use, nothing set forth in this policy precludes school district personnel from using the power of observation and professional judgment when there is reasonable suspicion of youth alcohol consumption.

The Board authorizes PBT and PBASD screening of students during the school day upon reasonable suspicion that a student may have consumed alcohol, and of attendees before, during and after school activities/events including, but not limited to dances, athletic events, proms, class trips, drama productions, graduation ceremonies, or school assemblies.

Procedurally, district personnel will not vary from the normal course of action outlined in Policy JGD: Student Suspension or Expulsion when evidence of alcohol consumption is derived from a PBT, PBASD reading or personal observation.

If the PBT or PBASD screening indicates the presence of alcohol on District student, the matter shall be reported to the Principal or designee and law enforcement. District students violating this policy will be disciplined according to the discipline procedures outlined in this policy and other relevant policies. School age persons from other districts attending school and district sponsored events who are suspected of alcohol consumption will be reported to the Principal or designee and law enforcement.

The Board shall provide notices to students, staff, parents and guardians of this policy.

Legal reference: Public law 101-226

Policy:

Adopted: 10/08/1990

Revised: 01/1999, 06/12/2017, 12/11/2023