

NEW CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY-PLEASE READ ASAP!!

Date Posted: Tuesday Jun 23, 2009

NORTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
POLICY MANUAL

JICH

CHEMICAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SAFETY (DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS) PURPOSE:

This policy is established for the purpose of setting forth the North Kingstown School Committee's support of State and Federal law and regulation governing the possession and use of illicit drugs and alcohol by North Kingstown school students. Further, to set forth the School Committee's expectations in the event such use or possession occurs on and off school property, at a school-sponsored activity or event, or in any way related to the conduct of program and activities of the North Kingstown School Department.

PHILOSOPHY:

Research statistics substantiate that the use of illicit substances is a major social health problem in the United States. The School Committee is committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle for its students and staff. Substance abuse is a major hazard to both the user and non-user. The School Committee believes the following policy discussion will accommodate concerns of parents, students, legal enforcement authorities, and community members relative to substance abuse associated with the North Kingstown School Department.

POLICY STATEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS:

The use, being under the influence of, intoxication, possession, or sale/distribution of illicit substances and/or paraphernalia associated with substance abuse is prohibited within the North Kingstown school buildings, in school vehicles or on school grounds at any time including school hours and school-sponsored activities. This policy also affects persons within the established drug-free zones (on school property) during non-school hours, vacations, and all activities on-site, etc. It is prohibited under this policy for any student off school property to use, be under the influence of, be intoxicated by, possess, sell or distribute illicit substances as stated by Rhode Island State law.

A drug-free zone has been established by the office of the Attorney General to include any boundaries that mark the end of the school parameter. It is further stated by the Attorney General's Office, persons convicted of distribution or manufacturing of a controlled substance on public school grounds shall be punished by a term of imprisonment or a fine or both, up to twice the amount as authorized by RIGL 21-

284.01(A) or 21-28-4.07. This policy is inclusive and prohibits the use of illicit substances. Due process procedures governing suspension shall be adhered to.

I. POLICY EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:

In order to ensure the highest possible standards of learning, as well as assuring the maintenance of the highest possible level of safety, health, and well-being for all students, the School Committee endorses a substance abuse policy

which will: 1) aid students to abstain from the use of drugs/alcohol; 2) intervene early when student use is detected; 3) take corrective disciplinary action where necessary and 4) provide aftercare support for students.

A. PREVENTION

The School Department will provide students with information and activities focused on preventing students from using alcohol and drugs. Prevention activities will be centered on an instructional program, guidance and counseling, school climate, and family and community involvement.

B. INTERVENTION

The School Department will establish and maintain a student assistance program to aid students who are chemically involved, to successfully address their harmful involvement with chemicals and to continue in a school program.

C. DISCIPLINE

Students have the right to attend school in an environment free of alcohol and drugs. Students are not to possess, sell, or use drugs, alcohol, unauthorized medication or drug-related paraphernalia. They shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs on school premises or at any school sponsored activity.

The consequences for violation of this Committee Policy Statement shall result in disciplinary action as defined in Administrative Directive JICH – R. Where violations of the law are involved, law enforcement agencies will be notified.

Exceptions to disciplinary procedures must be reviewed and approved by the School Principal and the Superintendent of Schools.

D. AFTERCARE

The School Department will work cooperatively with the student, parent(s), and community treatment personnel, to support an aftercare plan.

II. POLICY EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY:

Medical research substantiates that the use of alcohol and mood modifying substances produces harmful effects on the human body and will affect athletic and mental performance. Students cannot compromise their participation in extracurricular activities with substance abuse. Students who experiment with such substances jeopardize program morale, reputation and success, and they do physical harm to themselves and risk personal injury and harm to others during any activities. Students must make the commitment to refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs, and steroids as mandated by State law. Student are considered in violation of this policy if they use or are in the presence of, possess, consume (including being under the influence of) and/or distribute, other than as prescribed by a physician for personal use, any controlled drug and/or intoxicant or steroid at any time (see Year Round Expectations), whether during school, at any school activity, on school property, or at locations off school property.

A. CHEMICAL USAGE BY STUDENTS

1. For a first offense, a student will be:

- Suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for the next two (2) scheduled events of the season or 20% of the activity/events/games in the season, whichever is less. Every effort will be made to treat all extracurricular activities equitably. The suspended student may return to the team or activity for practices or meetings only. The student will be reinstated for competition/activity after the second (2) event/game or 20% of the activity/event/game was missed, once all the requirements have been met. This suspension will be completed during the activity or athlete's season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next extracurricular activity or interscholastic sport season in which that student participates.
- The student must meet with the Student Assistance Counselor and with the Athletic Director/Student Activities Director, coach or activity advisor, after which, the student will be reinstated to the extracurricular activity or team.
- Required to forfeit their leadership position or captaincy if they hold that position unless they apologize face-to-face to the members of their activity or team.

2. For a second offense, in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for 90 calendar days (excluding summer vacation). After ten (10) days, the student may return to the activity or team for meetings or practices only. The student will be required to forfeit their leadership position or captaincy if they hold that position. Referral to an outside agency for counseling may be made upon the discretion of the Student Assistance Counselor. If the student volunteers to become part of an approved chemical dependency or treatment program (at no cost to the School District), the student may return to participation after a minimum of 45 days. This treatment must be certified in writing to the Athletic Director/Student Activities Director by a doctor or counselor.

3. For any additional violation in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for 365 calendar days.

B. CIGARETTE, CIGAR AND SMOKELESS TOBACCO

Students who use tobacco products, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars or smokeless tobacco, will be in violation of school policy. This violation will be enforced whether during the school day, at a school activity, on school property.

1. For a first offense, a student will be:

- Suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for one (1) scheduled event of the season or 10% of the activity/events/games in the season, whichever is lower. Every effort will be made to treat all extracurricular activities equitably. The suspended student may return to the team or activity for practices or meetings only. The student will be reinstated for competition/activity after the one (1) event or 10% of the activity/event/game was missed, once all the requirements have been met. This suspension will be completed during an activities' season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next extracurricular activity or interscholastic sport season in which that student participates.
- The student must meet with the Student Assistance Counselor and with the Athletic Director/Student Activities Director, coach or activity advisor, after which, the student will be reinstated to the extracurricular activity or team.
- Required to forfeit their leadership position or captaincy if they hold that position unless they apologize face-to-face to the members of their activity or team.

2. For a second offense, in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for 30 calendar days (excluding summer vacation).

3. For any additional violation in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and extracurricular activities for 365 calendar days.

C. SELF-REFERRAL

If the student were to self-refer to the Student Assistance Counselor or to a staff member prior to being involved in an incident, there would be no sanction imposed on the student at that time. Continued participation in extracurricular activities or athletics would be based on an evaluation/recommendation submitted to the advisor/head coach and building Principal by the Student Assistance Counselor. The School District is committed to doing all they can to assist students who have self-referred. Self-referral is defined as a student approaching a counselor or staff member independently without provocation and confiding in them the substances with which they are having a problem.

D. YEAR ROUND EXPECTATIONS

The substance use policy in North Kingstown School District is in effect year round, in and out of season, on and off the field, in and out of uniform for all students involved in extracurricular activities. There is a reason for this . . . We care about the welfare of our student. We also expect a commitment from students if students want to be involved in after school activities in the School District.

E. PRESENCE AT PARTIES WITH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

If a student attends a party where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed, the student must leave the party immediately or risk enforcement of alcohol and drug policy.

F. CYBER IMAGES

Any identifiable image, photo, or video which implicates a student to have been in possession or in the presence of alcohol and/or drugs, or portrays actual use, or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code of conduct. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or the location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student must assume. It must also be noted that there may be persons, who would attempt to implicate a student, by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. Students must take every precaution to not place them self in such an environment.

G. CAPTAINS OR LEADERSHIP POSITION

Any student involved in a violation of the code of conduct that results in a suspension from school, or charged with crimes outside of school, will lose the ability to serve as a leader of an extracurricular activity or as captain of an athletic team and be ineligible to serve for a period of one calendar year.

Adopted: 3/3/75

Amended: 1/25/82; 9/5/89; 10/24/01, 6/16/09