

SUBJECT: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: February 2005

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: February 2010

CANCELS POLICY CODE:

REVISION DATE:

JURISDICTION: Poland Community School
Bruce M. Whittier Middle School

PHILOSOPHY:

It is the philosophy of the Poland School Committee that concern for the health and safety of the students dictates that a policy be instituted to provide procedures and guidelines for dealing with drug and alcohol use by students.

POLICY:

The Poland School Committee and the staff of Poland Community School support a safe and healthy learning environment, which is free of the detrimental effects of drugs and alcohol. Accomplishing this goal requires a cooperative effort among school staff, students, parents, law enforcement and organizations concerned with the use of drugs and alcohol by school-aged youth.

In order to promote the safety, health, and well being of students, the Poland School Committee endorses a three-pronged approach to address the issue of drug and alcohol use; prevention/education, intervention, and discipline. The Superintendent is responsible for developing appropriate administrative procedures, curricula, and programs to implement this policy.

Note Specific internal school drug and alcohol protocols may be more restrictive than this policy statement for school sponsored trips and activities.

Intervention:

The school unit will establish a team approach to intervene with students with drug/alcohol problems. All students who violate the substance abuse policy will be referred to our substance abuse counselor. All students will be assisted in addressing their drug/alcohol problems and in continuing their educational program. Students will be provided with information and referral, if necessary, to aid them in obtaining assistance from appropriate community organizations. Student records concerning such interventions shall be kept confidential as required by state and federal laws.

Prohibited Conduct:

No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, other intoxicating liquor, or any prescription drug for which the student does not have a valid prescription. Nor shall a student manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, any other controlled substance defined in federal and state laws/regulations, any look-alike substance, or any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance.

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These prohibitions apply to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

GENERAL Disciplinary Action:

The administration of the Poland Community School may suspend and/or recommend expulsion of students who violate this policy, based upon the facts of each case and in accordance with established disciplinary procedures. Students may also be referred to law enforcement authorities for investigation and/or prosecution.

If a participant is observed and reported by a Poland Community School employee (or there is verification by another authoritative source) as having been in the presence of or used a substance, an immediate fact-finding conference between the participant and the coach/advisor, co-curricular activities director and dean of students will be held.

SPECIFIC Consequences for Violation BY STUDENTS in CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY:

If a student self-reports this type of behavior to a coach, teacher, co-curricular director or dean of students the consequence will be less for following the school's honor code.

In the presence of "substances": Any student participating in co-curricular activity(s) who knowingly remains in the presence of people under age 21 who are engaged in prohibited conduct (i.e. at a party) will serve a minimum two (2) game suspension. If the student self-reports, the consequence will be a one game suspension.

First Offense for verified substance use: Any student participating in co-curricular activity(s) found to have been involved in prohibited conduct, may not participate in practice, game or the activity for a period of two weeks (10 school days) or a minimum of three (3) games suspension and will be removed from any team activity and forfeit any extracurricular credit regardless of the time within the semester. End of season offenses will be carried over to the next season. A conference will be held to develop an intervention plan. The school will help in discussing options of resources for the student. If the participant opts not to accept the assistance from the school or outside resources, the student will be ineligible for the remainder of the season.

Second Offense for verified substance use: If a second verified observation/report occurs (during the same season), the participant will be immediately dismissed from the team/activity for the remainder of the season and will forfeit any co-curricular credit. If the second verified observation occurs during a different season, they will be immediately removed from that team/activity as well and will forfeit co-curricular credit regardless of the time within the semester.

Third Offense for verified substance use: If a third verified observation/report occurs, the participant will be ineligible for competition on any team/activity for a period of one calendar year.

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Prevention/Education:

Poland Community School will provide students with appropriate information and activities focused on educating students with drugs and alcohol and preventing their use. Programs shall teach students that the use of drugs and alcohol is wrong and harmful; how to resist peer pressure; and address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol abuse.

Policy Communication:

Poland Community School shall distribute this policy and appropriate related information to staff, students, and parents on an annual basis through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators.

The Poland School Committee delegates responsibility for administering this policy to the Superintendent of Schools, who shall assign responsibility to the administration and staff in such a way as to support effective intervention and response strategies.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE POLICY:

None

REPORTS:

Records shall be kept in each school by the co-curricular director and/or school nurse relative to the activities, actions and interventions provided to students in keeping with this policy. These records shall be kept in accordance with confidentiality laws.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

21 UFC § 812 (Controlled Substances Act)

21 CFR Parts 1300.11-15

Pub. L. No. 101-225 (Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989)

17-A MRSA § 1101

42 USC § 290dd-2

42 CFR § 2/1 et seq.

20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9); 4008

POLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

CODE: JICH

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SIGNATURE BLOCK:

Poland School Committee

Ira Levine, Chair

DATE

Kim Moody

DATE

Jack Conway

DATE

Norman Davis

DATE

Laurie Levine

DATE