

**POLICY FOR DEALING WITH DRUG, ALCOHOL  
AND ANABOLIC STEROID USE**

I. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Board recognizes chemical substance and alcohol misuse as a community problem and further recognizes its responsibility both to maintain appropriate student discipline and to take positive action to address chemical substance and alcohol misuse and dependency.

II. STUDENT ALCOHOL/DRUG/ANABOLIC STEROID PROCEDURES:

A student shall not knowingly possess, use or have used, or be under the influence of\*, transmit, sell, give, exchange, distribute, or purchase, or offer to transmit, sell, give, exchange, distribute, or purchase any drug\*\* (as defined in Findlay City Drug Paraphernalia Ordinance No. 1983-54), or any other mind-altering or controlled substance of any kind, with the exceptions of (1) a student who is taking prescription drugs\*\*\* under a licensed physician's direction, and (2) a student who lawfully possesses an over-the-counter medication and who uses such medication consistent with its label directions for treatment of a bona fide health condition that warrants such possession and use:

- A. On any school grounds or in the school itself at any time including school-sponsored activities, functions, or events.
- B. Off school grounds at school-sponsored activities, functions or events.
- C. In Board-owned or Board-controlled vehicles or rented carriers.

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\* Under the influence is defined as manifesting signs of chemical or alcohol misuse, such as staggering, reddened eyes, odor on breath, nervousness, falling asleep in class, memory loss, abusive language, or any other behavior not normal for the particular student.

\*\* Drugs: Any drug listed in schedule I through V of the "Controlled Substances Act," 21 U.S.C. § 801 et al., but at a minimum includes, marijuana, cocaine, opiates (morphine, heroin, codeine), amphetamines, phencyclidine (pcp), barbiturates, LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy), propoxyphene, anabolic steroids, methadone, benzodiazepines, and any drug not approved for medical use by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Drugs include any drugs being used illegally, such as a prescription drug that was not legally obtained or is not being used for its intended purpose or in its prescribed quantity. Drugs also include alcohol and nicotine.

\*\*\* "Prescription drugs" means drugs described in O.R.C. Section 4729.02 administered pursuant to the instructions of the prescribing licensed physician, whether or not required by law to be sold only upon a prescription. Possession and/or use of prescription drugs shall not be considered a violation so long as notice of the prescription and the prescription label are presented to the school nurse or Principal's Office, and the medication is taken in accordance with the prescribing physician's instructions.

The following procedures will be followed in the event of a violation of the above prohibition:

1. The nurse will be notified (if the violation involves possession or use) and emergency medical services may be contacted, if necessary.
  - (a) If the student's presence poses a continuing danger to person or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, a parent or guardian of the student will be notified of the incident and will be directed to remove the student from school pending a suspension hearing, which shall be held within three (3) school days of the order of removal. The principal or designee will notify the student and the student's parent or guardian in writing of an intent to suspend and will arrange a suspension hearing among the student, the student's parent or guardian and the principal or assistant principal.
  - (b) If the student's presence does not pose a danger or threat of disruption as described in (a) above, then the principal or designee will proceed to give the student written notice of the intention to suspend and the reasons for the intended suspension. The principal or designee will provide the student with an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension or otherwise explain the student's actions.
2. The Principal will suspend the student for ten (10) days and recommend expulsion in compliance with the student due process procedures.
3. The Principal will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) in writing, using the appropriate suspension form.
4. The police may be notified of the incident and, at their discretion, may conduct an investigation.
5. If the violation is a first offense and the student did not sell, give exchange, distribute, purchase or transmit or offer to sell, give, exchange, distribute, purchase or transmit, five (5) days of suspension plus participation in an Educational Awareness program may be substituted for the above penalty of ten (10) days suspension and recommendation of expulsion, depending on the consent and attitude of the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s). Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be recommended to attend a parent support group.
6. For a second or subsequent offense involving only possession, being under the influence or use, the Superintendent will normally expel the student unless the following procedure is followed, in which case the Superintendent may elect not to expel:
  - a. The student seeks an evaluation by a Certified Alcoholism Counselor (CAC) or a licensed physician trained in chemical and/or alcohol dependency for a professional opinion concerning the student's chemical use/misuse/dependency (the expense of such evaluation is to be assumed by the student's family).
  - b. A written copy of the evaluation report, including findings and recommendations for the student, is sent by the counselor or physician to school officials.
7. If the student did give, exchange, distribute, purchase or transmit or offer to sell, give, exchange, distribute, purchase or transmit, the Superintendent will normally expel the student. In addition, the student will be recommended for evaluation by a trained Certified Alcoholism Counselor (CAC) or a

licensed physician trained in chemical and/or alcohol dependency for a professional opinion concerning the student's chemical use/misuse/dependency (expense of such evaluation is to be assumed by the student's family).

8. Notwithstanding the above provisions, where the violation involves a first offense by an elementary-level student and the student did sell, give, exchange, distribute, purchase or transmit or offer to sell, give, exchange, distribute, purchase or transmit, the Principal may suspend the student for three (3) days; the suspension will be waived if the student completes four educational sessions with a guidance counselor or school psychologist. The purpose of these sessions will be to inform the student of the dangers of the use of chemicals, to explore alternatives, and to uncover possible root causes of the behavior; further counseling may be recommended. Parents will be assisted and directed in obtaining the help necessary to prevent future violations. For a second or subsequent such offense, the Principal will suspend the student for five (5) days, waiving three days of the suspension and assigning the remaining two (2) days as in-school or out-of-school suspension if the student meets with an Education and Awareness program approved by the Principal or designee and a community chemical abuse counselor for evaluation and recommendation at the family's expense, the results of such an appointment to be shared with the school for the benefit of the student. If deemed appropriate by the Principal, a recommendation for expulsion may be made to the Superintendent. If the student did sell, give, exchange, distribute, purchase or transmit or offer to sell, give, exchange, distribute, purchase or transmit, the Principal will recommend expulsion to the Superintendent; in addition, the police will be notified of the incident and, at their discretion may conduct an investigation.

### III. STUDENT SELF-REFERRAL

Students who voluntarily refer themselves to school personnel at the middle and high school levels, due to their own drug/alcohol/ anabolic steroid involvement will be accorded confidentiality unless it becomes evident that withholding information may result in harm or injury to the student and/or others, in which case information will be shared with other appropriate persons. Parents will be notified when a self-referral is made by their minor child. Due to the complex nature of the chemical or alcohol dependency, staff members should generally not attempt to resolve a student's alcohol/drug/anabolic steroid problem on their own.

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