

## **417 - CHEMICAL USE AND ABUSE**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The governing 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 creates significant problems for society in general. The governing 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 education district in its goal to prevent chemical use and abuse by providing procedures for education and intervention.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. Use of controlled substances, medical cannabis, toxic substances, and alcohol is prohibited in the school setting in accordance with education district policies with respect to a Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
- B. It is the policy of this education district to provide an instructional program in every elementary and secondary school in chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency.
- C. The education 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 education district shall establish and maintain a program to educate and assist employees, students and others in understanding this policy and the goals of achieving drug-free schools and workplaces.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Chemical abuse” means use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, without compelling medical reason, 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. “Chemicals” includes, but is not limited to, alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, and controlled substances as defined in the education district’s Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School policy.
- C. “Use” includes to sell, buy, manufacture, distribute, dispense, use, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances, whether or not for the purpose of receiving remuneration.

- D. “School location” includes any school building or on any school premises; on any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; off-school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the education district; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the education district or otherwise engaged in education district business.

#### IV. STUDENTS

A. Instruction

Every school shall provide an instructional program in chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency. The education district may involve parents, students, health care professionals, state department staff, and members of the community in developing the curriculum.

B. Reports of Chemical Use and Abuse

1. In the event that a education district employee knows that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing or selling chemicals in a school location:
  - a. The employee shall immediately either take the student to an administrator or notify an appropriate administrator of the observation and continue to observe the student until the administrator arrives.
  - b. The administrator will notify the student’s parents. If there is a medical emergency, the administrator will notify the school nurse and/or outside medical personnel as appropriate.
  - c. The administrator will notify law enforcement officials, the student’s counselor, and the chemical preassessment team.
  - d. The administrator and/or law enforcement officials will confiscate the chemicals and/or conduct a search of the student’s person, effects, locker, vehicle, or areas within the student’s control. Searches by education district officials shall be in accordance with governing board policies regarding search and seizure.
  - e. The education district will take appropriate disciplinary action in compliance with the student discipline code. Such discipline may include immediate suspension, initiation of expulsion proceedings, and/or referral to a detoxification center or medical center.
2. If an education district employee has reason to believe that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing or selling chemicals:

- a. The employee shall notify the building administrator or a member of the preassessment team and shall describe the basis for the suspicion. The building administrator and/or team will determine what action should be taken. Action may include conducting an investigation, gathering data, scheduling a conference with the student or parents, or providing a meeting between a single member of the team and the student to discuss the behaviors that have been reported and attempting to ascertain facts regarding chemical abuse.
  - b. The team may determine there is no chemical abuse. If the team determines there is chemical abuse, the team will select an appropriate course of action, which may include referral to a school counselor; referral to a treatment program; referral for screening, assessment, and treatment planning; participation in support groups; or other appropriate measures.
3. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution or sale of chemicals shall be suspended in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §121A.40-121A.56, and proposed for expulsion.
  4. Searches by education district officials in connection with the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution or sale of chemicals will be conducted in accordance with governing board policies related to search and seizure.

C. Preassessment Team

1. Every school shall have a chemical abuse preassessment team designated by the executive director 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 forty-five (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 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 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 six (6) 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 with such information, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the student is no longer enrolled in the district.
- c. This section shall govern destruction of records notwithstanding provisions of the Records Management Act, Minn. Stat. § 138.163.

E. Consent

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

**V. EMPLOYEES**

- A. The executive director or designee shall undertake and maintain a drug-free awareness and prevention program to inform employees, students and others about:
  1. The dangers and health risks of chemical abuse in the workplace/school.
  2. The education district's drug-free workplace/drug-free school policy.
  4. Any available drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, re-entry and/or assistance programs available to employees and/or students.
  5. The penalties that may be imposed on employees for drug abuse violations.
- B. The executive director or designee shall notify any federal granting agency required to be notified under the Drug-Free Workplace Act within ten (10) days after receiving notice of a conviction of an employee for a criminal drug statute violation occurring in the workplace. To facilitate the giving of such notice, any employee aware of such a conviction shall report the same to the executive director.