



SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE BY STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN CO-CURRICULAR

The Regional School Unit-24 (RSU) Board (RSUB) is committed to providing a quality learning environment for all students. A quality learning environment includes a school which is free from the detrimental effects of illegal substances. The RSUB recognizes that substance abuse and dependency are treatable diseases.

To promote and provide a quality learning environment within all RSU schools, the RSUB endorses a three-prong approach to prevent, discourage, and eliminate substance use by students. This three pronged approach will address prevention leading to elimination through education; intervention; and discipline.

In order to promote the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the safety, health and well-being of students, it is the policy of the RSUB that students participating in Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) not use, possess, furnish, be under the influence of, or be in the presence of, any substance and/or paraphernalia designed for, or utilized in, the use of such substances at any time.

DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Substance: Any substance whether illicit or licit, that when used, affects mental processes, including, but not limited to cognition, behavior, and/or personality. Included are scheduled drugs as defined in Title 17-A, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Chapter 45 and/or regulated by the Federal Controlled Substances Act (Title 21 Chapter 13 of the United States Code: Drug Abuse Prevention and Control). This includes, but is not limited, to alcohol, inhalants, steroids, cannabis, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, narcotics and any prescription medication(s) not prescribed by licensed Medical Professionals specifically for the individual student that has it in his/her possession.

Attendance at School: includes but is not limited to the following circumstances; any time a student is traveling to and from school or a school sponsored activity (whether by bus or private vehicle), any time a student is on RSU property whether during, before or after school hours; and any time a student is representing any RSU school off RSU property but on an RSU sponsored trip/activity.

RSU Sponsored Activity: whether graded or non-graded, but is not limited to, any CCA, field trips, class trips, dances, or other similar education and recreational activities.

CCA: Any RSU/school sponsored, non-graded (no formal grade is assigned), student activity.

Student: a person enrolled in any RSU educational program, including "Adult Education" classes, or attending a school sponsored activity normally intended for RSU students, regardless of whether this person takes educational classes, and/or any person "home schooled" or "alternatively schooled" or otherwise not attending classes at an RSU school but who is on RSU property or attending any RSU sponsored activity relating to their course of education..

RSU Student Assistance Team (RSUSAT): The RSUSAT consists of any and/or all of the following RSU Personnel: School Nurse, Guidance Councilor, Social Worker, Building Administrator (BA) and Assistant BA (ABA). This RSUSAT may be expanded if/as required by the BA, utilizing whomever he/she feels is appropriate for any particular situation. Students may be referred to any individual member. Team members will meet informally as they feel necessary to maintain continuity between members and to monitor student(s) progress and to maintain team continuity concerning all students the team is serving.

Self-Referral: The requesting of assistance from a Teacher, Administrator, or RSUSAT member PRIOR to being involved in any substance abuse incident and/or investigation, whether or not the student has knowledge that such investigation is in progress. *Students may self refer one time only!*

Parent: “Refers to the student’s parent(s) and/or Legal Guardian.

Release of Information by Student/Parent Required: Any student referred to the RSUSAT and/or other Professional(s) for an evaluation will be required to sign a “release of information form,” (as will the parent), PRIOR to any such referral, so RSUSAT members may monitor the student's progress.

In the Presence Of: Any student that finds himself/herself in a situation where he/she knowingly, or could reasonably be expected to have knowledge of, substance(s) are present and/or are being used and does not take steps to extricate him/her self from the area in a timely manner. “Timely manner” will be determined by the BA during his/her investigation.

Communication

This policy will be posted on the RSU website and printed in all student handbooks. All parents and students involved in any CCA must sign a contract stating they have read, understand, and will follow the terms of this policy as well as RSU Policy JICH

Prevention.

The RSU will provide students with information and activities focused on prevention of illegal substance use/abuse. Programs will be provided that teach students the dangers of use/abuse, how to resist peer pressure and will address the legal, social and health consequences of substance abuse.

Roles of RSU Professional Staff:

1. Will become familiar with this policy and its impact on students.
2. Will assist in educating all students about the scope and purpose of this policy.
3. If a student appears to be in violation of this policy, necessary action shall be initiated to secure the health and safety of all students.
4. Must be familiar with the resources available to students that are seeking assistance with a substance abuse problem, and will treat any/all such requests for assistance as confidential and direct the student to the social worker/guidance counselor/ substance abuse counselor.
5. All staff shall report any violations of this policy to the BA immediately.

Investigation and Evidence to Support Conclusion of Violation:

It shall be the responsibility of the BA involved to ensure an investigation is conducted on any/all infractions, allegations or information concerning possible violations of this policy. In any case where a violation is found to have occurred, a parent shall be contacted by the BA/ABA, and the student must be referred to the RSUSAT.

CCA Participants:

A. The RSUB is adopting a stricter substance use prohibition policy for those students involved in CCA's. The purpose for this is three fold (1) to provide for the health and safety of all CCA students: (2) to undermine peer pressure to use drugs by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use drugs; and (3) to encourage CCA students that have used drugs to participate in treatment.

B. Each student wishing to participate in any CCA, and the student's custodial parent, shall agree in writing to the provisions of this policy, including the possibility of random drug testing. No student will be allowed to participate in any CCA without such consent.

C. Each student wishing to participate in any CCA is subject to RSU policies JICH and JICC for the duration of the CCA in which the student is involved. Students participating in CCA's are subject this policy 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7) for the CCA season.

Discipline for CCA Participants

In addition to the discipline stipulated for all students in RSU policy JICH, participants in CCAs are subject to the following additional disciplinary measures:

Violation

Participants will be unable to wear the team uniform or attend games/competitions in the CCA for up to five (5) weeks (at the discretion of the Athletic Director and consultation of the Building Administrator, this may be reduced to three weeks for student citizenship). Students must however, attend and participate in practices. At the discretion of the Athletic Director (AD), failure to attend/participate in practice may result in the removal from the team. Students who have not completed their five (5) weeks of ineligibility prior to the next CCA season will be eligible for tryouts for that CCA and must follow teams' attendance requirements, but will not be allowed to attend games as a team member five weeks from date of violation. This also applies to a student that does not complete their five (5) weeks prior to the end of the school year. Their ineligibility "time" will re-start at the beginning of the Fall season in accordance with the Maine Principals Association (MPA) calendar for beginning and ending school year dates. For the purpose of this policy the winter season begins on the last day of the MPA fall season and ends on the first day of the MPA spring season.

Procedures for Coaches/Advisors

All coaches/advisors must report any violations of this policy to the Athletic Director or BA immediately.

Appeals

Any student or parents of a student punished pursuant to this policy may appeal the BA's decision to the Superintendent. If still not satisfied, they may request to appeal to the RSUB. The RSUB will hear the appeal in executive session. The finding of the RSUB will be final!

Ref: Title 17-A, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Chapter 45
Federal Controlled Substances Act (Title 21 Chapter 13 of the United States Code
The No Child Left Behind Act (P.L. 107-110) as amended

Cross Reference: ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace
JICG - Tobacco use by students
JKD – Suspension of Students
JKE – Expulsion of Students
JRA – Student Educational Records

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Approved: _____