

**West Allegheny School District**  
**Drug and Alcohol Use Policy**

This Policy and its associated guidelines are intended as a vehicle of the West Allegheny School District to effectively curb the potential and current use and abuse of drugs, controlled substances and alcoholic beverages by students.

The possession and use of drugs, controlled substances and alcoholic beverages are forbidden in the West Allegheny School District. This includes the school buildings, the school grounds, the school buses and any and all activities under the control or direction of school personnel whether they occur on or off school property. Violation of these restrictions will result in disciplinary measures being taken against offenders by the Administration. The Administration of the West Allegheny School District also reserves the right to prefer civil charges against any and all offenders, and to refer those offenders to law enforcement authorities for appropriate action.

It will be the responsibility of the Superintendent and/or his/her designee to develop and implement **guidelines** for the implementation of the above stated Policy.

**GUIDELINES**

These guidelines have been created as one part of the West Allegheny School District Drug, Controlled Substances and Alcoholic Beverages Policy. They are intended to provide a consistent means for effectively responding to alcohol and drug related situations that may occur at school or at school

sponsored events either on or off school property. The Board reserves the right to use any extraordinary measures deemed necessary to control substance abuse.

**I. Definitions**

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms, when used in this Policy, shall have the following meanings:

- A. "Drug" - Any chemical, organic or inorganic substance classified as a "controlled substance" by the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, Act of April 14, 1972, P.L. 233, No. 64, as amended, 33 P.S. 780 - 101-et seq. "Drug shall include but not be limited to:
1. Any opiate, or derivative or compound of opium;
  2. Any hallucinogenic substance including lysergic acid, diethylamide, mescaline, peyote, psilocybin and tetra-

hydrocannabinols;

- 3.. Marijuana, including all forms, species and/or varieties of genus cannabis sativa L., seeds, resins, oils and compounds thereof;
4. Cocaine, coca leaves and any compound, derivative or preparation thereof;
5. Stimulants, including amphetamine phenmetramine, methylphenidate, methamphetamine and any compound, mixture or preparation containing any quantity thereof;
6. Depressants, including barbituric acid or any compound or derivative thereof;
7. So-called "look-alike drugs" or compounds containing caffeine, ephedrine or similar substances, packaged or intended to look like a controlled substance;
8. The use of inhalants, such as amelnitrates or so called "Rush", airplane glue, ether, kerosene or compounds thereof;

"Drug" shall not include any substance prescribed by a licensed physician for a student, provided that the student first registers the drugs with the school nurse or health office at the time they re first brought onto school premises and used in accordance with instructions of the prescribing physician.

- B. "Alcohol" - Any alcoholic beverage, a beverage containing any alcohol, malt or fermented beverages, or combinations thereof.
- C. "Personal Amount" - A small amount of drugs intended for personal use of an individual. Unless circumstances otherwise warrant, a personal amount shall be not more than two marijuana cigarettes, ten grams of marijuana, three grams of hashish, three pills, tablets, inhalants, capsules or similar substances, one gram of cocaine or other powder-like controlled substance.
- D. "Distribution Amount" - A distribution amount shall be greater than two marijuana cigarettes, ten grams of marijuana, three grams of hashish, three pills, tablets, inhalants, capsules or similar substances, or one gram of cocaine or other powder-like controlled substances.
- E. "Subsequent Offenses" - Those offenses beyond the first offense for drug and alcohol (D/A) policy violations.
- F. "Drug Paraphernalia" - Includes any utensil or item which in the school's judgment be associated with the use of drugs, alcohol or mood altering substances. Examples include but are not limited to papers,

roach clips, pipes and bowls.

## **II. Suspected Use of Drugs**

- A. **Definition** A student is suspected of using drugs or alcohol, but there is no evidence of violation of law or school regulation. This situation may involve a student suspected of using drugs or alcohol, but who does not show extreme behavior changes and no evidence is available; a student who contacts a teacher in regard to the drug or alcohol use of another student or the student who volunteers information about personal drug or alcohol use.
- B. **Action By Staff**
1. A staff person may approach the student regarding behavior, performance, or general health. The student will not be accused of drug use, but an attempt will be made to discuss the situation or to refer the student to the principal/assistant principal and/or the Student Support Team.
  2. A limited discussion will be held with the student, and will not be used as a basis for punishment.
  3. If there is continued suspicion, appropriate school personnel will complete the student behavior checklist to aid the Student Support Team in identifying students who may have drug or alcohol problems.
- C. **Notification of Parents**
1. The parent will be contacted by the appropriate administrator or his/her designee.
  2. Any contact will concern the student's actual behavior or possible cause.
- D. **Confidentiality**
1. The dissemination of information will be limited to the Principal, staff members involved, student, and Student Support Team.
  2. The Principal has the option of inviting other appropriate personnel.
- E. **Discipline - Assistance**
1. No discipline mandated.

2 Referral to appropriate support personnel.

F Disposition of Substance Not Applicable

G. Notification of Police Not Applicable

### **III. Possible Drug Use Emergency**

A. Definition

A student demonstrates obvious symptoms of possible drug use, such as staggering, slurred speech, dazed appearance, incoherence, and/or inability to respond. This situation is handled as a health problem and potential emergency.

B. Action By Staff

1. District standard health, first-aid and potential emergency procedures will be followed.

a The student will not be left alone.

b. The school nurse will be summoned immediately, with arrangements to be made for the student to be taken to a medical facility if necessary.

2. The principal or designee will be notified, and transportation will be arranged with parents, if possible. Otherwise, the school will arrange for transportation of the student by police, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle.

3 Investigation - The principal or designee will conduct a search of the student. The search may also include the student's locker, desk or other personal property, and any vehicle in control of the student on school property. A witness will be present during any search.

4. A referral will be made to the Student Support Team for monitoring the actions of the student.

C. Notification of Parents

The parents will be notified of the circumstances, including a description of the situation and symptoms exhibited by the student and noted by the school nurse.

D. Confidentiality

Information shall be limited to the parties who have immediate knowledge of the situation and may also be extended to medical personnel,

the school superintendent, principal, necessary counselors, and/or Student Support Team.

E. Discipline and/or Assistance

If the student is under the influence of a drug or alcohol, the student will be given a suspension up to ten days and required to have D & A assessment by the school D & A counselor or an appropriate rehabilitation facility. A student has the right to an informal office hearing according to the student's rights and responsibilities. The student and parents must meet with the Student Support Team to discuss the findings of the D & A assessment. Students and parents not following through with assessment will be required to have a hearing with the building principal or his/her designee before the student is readmitted to school. Prior to readmission, a mandatory meeting with the Student Support Team is necessary. This may not preclude a formal board hearing.

F. Disposition of Substance

1. If a drug is discovered at the time of an emergency, the information will be revealed to necessary medical personnel for the sole purpose of aiding and treatment.
2. Any staff member finding controlled substances should ensure the evidence is not disturbed and notify the appropriate administrator to secure the scene.
3. If the substance is deemed a control substance by law enforcement officials, it will be referred to the appropriate step of the D & A Policy.

G. Police Notification

1. If possession, use, or under the influence of a drug or alcohol is suspected, the police will be notified and requested to take appropriate action.

**IV. Possession of a Personal Amount of Any Drug, in Any Quantity and/or any Paraphernalia - First Offense**

A. Definition

A student is discovered with a personal amount of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia for the first time.

B. Action By Staff

1. The staff person discovering the student possessing the drugs

and/or paraphernalia will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office.

2. The principal or designee will conduct a search of the student. The search may also include the student's locker, desk or other personal property, and any vehicle in control of the student on school property. A witness will be present during any search.
3. The student will not be left alone.
4. Referral to Student Support Team to collect appropriate data.

C. Notification of Parents

The parent will be contacted, the situation described and a conference arranged as soon as possible.

D. Confidentiality

Information will be limited to the initial parties involved, the superintendent, principals, police, counselors, Student Support Team and/or District Magistrate.

E. Discipline - Assistance

1. If the student possesses a personal amount of drugs, the student will receive a suspension up to ten days and be required to have an assessment by the school's D & A counselor or an appropriate rehabilitation facility. A student has the right to an informal office hearing according to the student's rights and responsibilities. The student and his/her parents must meet with the Student Support Team to discuss the findings of the D & A assessment. Students and parents not following through with assessment will be required to have a hearing with the building principal or his/her designee before the student is readmitted to school. Prior to readmission, a mandatory meeting with the Student Support Team is necessary. This may not preclude a formal board hearing.

F. Disposition of Substance

Any staff member finding controlled substances should ensure the evidence is not disturbed and notify the appropriate administrator to secure the scene.

G. Notification of Police

The Police will be notified.

**V. Possession of Controlled Substance, Drug or Alcohol (Distribution**

## **Amount)**

### **A. Definition**

A student is discovered to be in possession of a distribution amount of drugs.

### **B. Action By Staff**

1. The staff member discovering the drug will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office.

2. The principal or designee will conduct a search of the student. The search may also include the student's locker, desk or other personal property, and any vehicle in control of the student on school property. A witness will be present during any search.

3. The student will not be left alone.

4. Referral to Student Support Team to collect appropriate data.

### **C. Notification of Parents**

The parent will be contacted by the principal or designee, the situation will be described and a conference arranged as soon as possible. The principal and/or designee will assure that the parent has been notified in both oral and written form.

### **D. Confidentiality**

Information will be limited to the initial parties involved, the superintendent, parent, principal, counselor, Student Support Team, police, and/or District Magistrate.

### **E. Discipline - Assistance**

If a student is found to be in possession of a distribution amount of drugs, the student will be given a suspension up to 10 days and be required to have an assessment by the school's D & A counselor or an appropriate rehabilitation facility. A student has the right to an informal office hearing according to the student's rights and responsibilities. The student and his/her parents must meet with the Student Support Team to discuss the findings of the D & A assessment. Students and parents not following through with assessment will be required to have a hearing with the building principal or his/her designee before the student is readmitted to school. Prior to readmission, a mandatory meeting with the Student Support Team is necessary. This may not preclude a formal board hearing. The superintendent will be notified.

#### F. Disposition of Substance

Any staff member finding controlled substances should ensure the evidence is not disturbed and notify the appropriate administrator to secure the scene.

#### G. Notification of Police

The police will be notified.

### **VI. Distribution or Selling Drugs**

#### A. Definition

A student is discovered in the act of distributing, giving, selling, purchasing or receiving drugs to or from another person.

#### B. Action of Staff

1. The staff member will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office.

2. The principal or designee will conduct a search of the student. The search may also include the student's locker, desk or other personal property, and any vehicle in control of the student on school property. A witness will be present during any search.

3. The student will not be left alone.

4. A referral will be made to the Student Support Team for collection of appropriate data and follow-up with the student.

#### C. Notification of Parents

The parent will be contacted by the principal or designee, the situation described and a conference arranged as soon as possible. The principal and/or designee will assure that the parent has been notified both orally and in writing.

#### D. Confidentiality

Information will be limited to the initial parties involved, the superintendent, principal, counselors, Student Support Team, parent, and police.

#### E. Discipline - Assistance

1. Following an informal hearing with the principal, the student will initially be suspended from school for 10 days or until a hearing before the

Board of School Directors. A formal hearing will be held before the Board to consider expulsion. Terms of that expulsion or an alternative to that expulsion will be determined by the Board. Students who are not expelled will be required to have an facility. The student and his/her parents must meet with the Student Support Team to discuss the findings of the assessment. Students will follow the recommendation of the rehabilitation facility when applicable.

#### F. Disposition of Substance

Any staff member finding controlled substances should ensure the evidence is not disturbed and notify the appropriate administrator to secure the scene.

#### G. Notification of Police

The police will be notified.

### **VII. Subsequent Possession of Drug or Alcohol**

#### A. Definition

A student is discovered to be in possession of a drug or alcohol for subsequent times.

#### B. Action By Staff

1. The staff member discovering the student in possession of a drug will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office.

2. The principal or designee will conduct a search of the student. The search may also include the student's locker, desk or other personal property, and/or any vehicle in control of the student on school property. A witness will be present during any search.

3. The student will not be left alone.

4. A referral will be made to the Student Support Team for collection of appropriate data and follow-up with the student.

#### C. Notification of Parents

The parent will be contacted by the principal or designee, the situation described and a conference arranged as soon as possible. The principal and/or designee will assure that the parent

has been notified in both oral and written form.

D. Confidentiality

Information will be limited to the initial parties involved, the principal, superintendent, counselors, Student Support Team, parent, police, and/or District Magistrate.

E. Discipline - Assistance

1. Following an informal hearing before the principal, a student will be suspended for a period of ten days.

2. A formal hearing may be held before the Board of School Directors to consider expulsion. Terms of that expulsion or an alternative to that expulsion will be determined by the Board of School Directors. Students who are not expelled will be required to have an assessment by the school's D&A counselor or an appropriate rehabilitation facility. The student and his/her parents must meet with the Student Support Team to discuss the findings of the assessment. Students will follow the recommendation of the rehabilitation facility when applicable.

F. Disposition of Substance

Any staff member finding controlled substances should ensure the evidence is not disturbed and notify the appropriate administrator to secure the scene.

G. Notification of Police

The police will be notified.

**Revisions approved by the board  
March 18, 1998.**