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| Book          | Policy Manual  |
| Section       | Ready for the board - November 2024  |
| Title         | Special Update - Attendance, Areas of Shortage and Student Conduct - September 2024 Revised SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION |
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| Legal         | WV Code 18-2-7b<br>WV Code 18-34-1<br>West Virginia State Board of Education policy 4373                               |
| Adopted       | June 25, 2019  |
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| Last Reviewed | October 15, 2024   |

**Revised Policy - Special Update - September 2024**

**5530 - SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION**

The Board of Education recognizes that the misuse of drugs, including alcohol, is a serious problem with legal, physical, and social implications for the whole school community.

**X ]** As the educational institutions of this community, the schools should strive to prevent drug abuse and help drug abusers by educational means, where practicable.

For purposes of this policy, "drugs" shall mean:

- A. all controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by West Virginia statute;
- B. all chemicals ~~that which~~ release toxic vapors;
- C. all alcoholic beverages;
- D. any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy;
- E. anabolic steroids (as defined by State law);
- F. any substance that is a "look-alike" to any of the above;
- G. any "bogus" drugs;
- H. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **[Other]**.

Under the Student Code of Conduct, the Board prohibits being under the influence, the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of any drug or any drug-related paraphernalia as the term is defined by law, or the misuse of a product containing a substance that can provide an intoxicating or mood-altering effect on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at any school-sponsored event.

The Superintendent shall prepare guidelines to address prohibited drug use in the schools under this policy. Such guidelines shall:

- A. emphasize preventative measures;
- B. require implementation of the substance abuse and tobacco control portions of West Virginia Board of Education policy 4373 at the school level;
- C. provide clear procedures for identification, intervention, and referral of students with substance abuse problems;
- D. provide for a comprehensive, age-appropriate, developmentally-based drug and alcohol education and prevention program which:
  - 1. addresses the legal, social, psychological, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use;
  - 2. provides information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs and alcohol;
  - 3.  assists students to develop skills to make responsible decisions about substance abuse and other important health issues;
  - 4.  promotes positive emotional health, self-esteem, and respect for one's body;
  - 5.  meets the minimal objectives as stated in the essential performance objectives for health education as established by the State Department of Education;
- E.  provide a comprehensive drug awareness and prevention program for students in grades kindergarten through twelve (12) that may include faith-based electives along with nonfaith-based electives; for drug awareness in classrooms.
- F. include a statement to students that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful;
- G. provide standards of conduct that are applicable to all students and which clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students on school premises or as a part of any school activity, noting the same are prohibited by the Student Code Conduct;
- H. include a clear statement that disciplinary sanctions, up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution, will be imposed on students who violate the school standards of conduct and a description of those sanctions;  
  
 The sanctions may include, together with punitive action, voluntary referral to appropriate persons or agencies for screening and assessment. Such referral may only be made to qualified and properly licensed individuals or programs.
- I. provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs available to students and provide procedures to direct students and their parents to the appropriate programs;
- J. require that all parents and students be given a copy of the standards of conduct regarding the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students;
- K. require the notification to parents and students that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory;
- L. provide an annual review of the Board's program to determine its effectiveness and implement changes as needed and to ensure that disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced;
- M. **provide that,** with respect to student substance abuse/addiction, the following actions will be taken:
  - 1. conference with the parent/guardian and appropriate law enforcement representatives in an effort to direct the student to appropriate addiction services; and

2. referral to tobacco cessation services/treatment and substance abuse treatment services shall be a priority intervention strategy for these behaviors; behaviors.

N. include procedures for communicating the terms of these guidelines to students, school staff, parents or families, visitors and the community-at-large through reasonable means, such as:

1. staff development,
2. employee and student handbooks,
3. parent/guardian notification,
4. general public notification (e.g., signs, announcements),
5. attaching a summary of this policy on all requests for school facility use;

O. include a plan for implementing required kindergarten through 12th-grade preventive education, as outlined in West Virginia Board of Education policy 2520.5, and shall be coordinated with Safe and Drug-Free Schools School (Goals and Objectives) to provide a comprehensive kindergarten through 12th-grade substance abuse prevention curriculum for all children;

School administrators, Local School Improvement Councils, and school curriculum teams shall assure that prevention education are comprehensive, coordinated, and age appropriate. Examples include developmental guidance, advisor-advisee, peer involvement, after-school programs and integration into instructional objectives.

P. explain the manner in which the Board plans to provide or make referral to voluntary support programs (such as a local mental health provider or tobacco cessation program or hotline programs): address the physical, psychological and social issues associated with addiction; provide ongoing support and reinforcement necessary for desired behavior change; and provide information about available programs to all 4th through 12th grade students and staff on a regular basis and:

1. contain enforcement provisions for the public, which may include, but are not limited to, to request to stop use or leave premises, deny access to school property, and/or police notification;
2. shall, in taking action against a student for violation of this policy, provide for appropriate due process procedures;

If the student is an Eligible Disabled Student according to W. Va. 126CSR16, West Virginia Board of Education policy 2419: Regulations for the Education of Exceptional Students, (hereinafter policy 2419), any action taken against the student must comply with, and must not be in violation of policy 2419. All disciplinary action taken against the student shall be in accordance with local, State, and Federal law.

3. identify responses and/or interventions that are consistent with the levels specified in West Virginia Board of Education policy 4373 to address violations;

The specific procedures to be followed when any staff member observes any violations outlined in this policy shall be outlined in county/school policies and procedures.

Q. (X) contain enforcement provisions for students which may include, but are not limited to: counseling, school/community service, voluntary cessation programs, parent/guardians notification, mandatory education sessions, alternative to suspension programs, plan for behavior improvement, policy notification, and/or prosecution;

R. (X) establish procedures for addressing students suspected of drug use or suspected of possession or distributing drugs in school and ensure that the Board's policy and administrative guidelines on Search and Seizure (Policy 5771 and AG 5771), Suspension and Expulsion (Policy 5610 and AG 5610), are complied with fully; and fully.

S. provide mandatory annual education of public school students in grades 6-12 to fulfill the requirements of WV Code. Students will be:

1. taught about fentanyl, heroin, and opioids awareness, prevention, and abuse;
2. instructed in the life-saving use of FDA-approved opioid reversal agents;

3. instructed on the prevention of the abuse and addiction to fentanyl;
4. instructed on available state and community resources and organizations that work to prevent and reduce youth substance use; and
5. provided health education covering the issues of substance abuse and youth substance abuse in particular.

The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy. Such guidelines shall ensure that the proper notice regarding the use of anabolic steroids is posted in each of the Board's locker rooms used by students in grades 6-12.

Pursuant to West Virginia Board of Education policy 4373, substance abuse will be handled in accordance with Policy 5600 - Student Discipline.

The Board shall review this policy in accordance with West Virginia Board of Education policy 4373 and State law.

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