

**MOUNT DESERT ISLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE RULES**

These rules set forth the procedures to be followed and disciplinary action to be taken when a student violates policy JICH – Student Substance Abuse.

The progressive disciplinary sanctions suggested in these rules are guidelines only, and the administration reserves the discretion to impose consequences up to and including a recommendation of expulsion for any violation of the Student Substance Abuse policy. In determining the appropriate level of discipline, the administration may consider any relevant facts and circumstances, including but not limited to the student behavior accompanying the violation, the student’s willingness to cooperate with the investigation and the referral procedures in these rules, whether the student self-reported or voluntarily sought help, and the student’s prior disciplinary record. The administration reserves the right to impose consequences regarding participation/attendance at future school events.

High School Procedures (9-12)

1. Type 1: Consumption, use, possession, receipt, or being under the influence of prohibited substance
 - a. First Offense

The administrator shall:

- (1) Confiscate prohibited substance and verify offense;
- (2) Meet with student;
- (3) Notify and meet with parent/guardian;
- (4) Notify Superintendent and/or law enforcement;
- (5) Refer student to Hearing Committee or Principal;
- (6) Have Hearing Committee member or Principal meet with parent/guardian to share recommendations (to extent allowed by confidentiality laws);
- (7) Provide for 5 to 10 day in-school or out-of-school suspension. At the discretion of the committee, suspension days can be exchanged for Friday and Saturday detentions. If an exchange is agreed upon, one day of suspension will be equivalent to one Friday and one Saturday detention.
- (8) Provide on-site alcohol/drug counseling.

b. Second and Subsequent Offenses

The administrator shall:

- (1) Follow steps 1-4 for first offense;
- (2) Provide for out-of-school suspension and refer to the School Committee for possible expulsion. Prior offenses and disciplinary record shall be taken into consideration.

2. Type 2: Furnishing, selling, buying, distributing, dispensing, manufacturing a prohibited substance

a. Each Offense

The administration shall:

- (1) Confiscate prohibited substance and verify offense;
- (2) Meet with student;
- (3) Notify and meet with parent/guardian;
- (4) Notify Superintendent and/or law enforcement;
- (5) Provide for immediate out-of-school suspension and refer to the School Committee for possible expulsion. Prior offenses and disciplinary record shall be taken into consideration.

Concerned Person Referral

In our efforts to assist students who have recognized substance abuse problems, the following procedure will be followed. A concerned person referral may not be used to avoid discipline for a violation of the substance abuse policy.

a. Type 1: School staff, peer, parent or other concerned person

- (1) Concerned person notifies SAT member, guidance counselor or Principal of incident or concern;
- (2) SAT member, guidance counselor or Principal meets with student to discuss concern;
- (3) SAT member, guidance counselor or Principal notifies parent/guardian (to extent permitted by law);
- (4) Encourage student to meet with SAT member and guidance counselor or Principal to develop and follow through with action plan;
- (5) Follow action plan or recommendations of SAT, guidance counselor or Principal.

b. Type 2: Self-referral

- (1) SAT member, guidance counselor or Principal meets with student to discuss concern;
- (2) Follow steps 3-5 above.

Procedure for School Functions

School personnel responsible for a student who has violated the substance abuse policy shall:

- (1) Remove the student from the function and/or return the student to school grounds retaining him/her while following steps 2-5 below;
- (2) Call the student's parent/guardian to assume physical responsibility;
- (3) If a parent/guardian is not available to assume physical responsibility for the student, and it is after school hours, call the appropriate law enforcement agency;
- (4) Notify school administrator of the incident, who will follow disciplinary action as outlined in Part I, as applicable; and
- (5) Under no circumstances is a student to be left unsupervised.

Confidentiality

Any policy by itself will never be enough to solve the issue of the furnishing, sale of, or the use of drugs in a school. Clearly, part of the solution involves students taking a stand against such drug violations in their school community. The administration will, to the extent possible, protect student confidentiality in situations involving students providing information about such drug violations.

Cross Reference: JICH – Student Substance Abuse
 JLD – Student Assistance Teams

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