

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

The School Committee recognizes that alcoholism and drug dependency are treatable diseases. Left untreated, they may result in serious personal and family problems. At the same time, the Committee also recognizes the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse in schools and is seriously concerned about the effects of alcohol and drug use on students.

In order to promote the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the safety, health and well-being of students, this policy is designed to aid students to abstain from the use of alcohol and drugs, provide for early intervention when use is detected, provide on-site drug/alcohol counseling, and provide corrective disciplinary action when necessary and aftercare support as appropriate. Compliance with this policy is mandatory.

Prohibited Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions

No student shall sell, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor. Nor shall any student manufacture, sell, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, any other controlled substance defined in federal and state laws/regulations, or any look-alike drug or substance that is represented to be a prohibited substance defined in this policy. Nor shall a student sell, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any substance which can affect or change a student's mental, physical or behavior pattern, including but not limited to volatile materials such as glue, paint or aerosols, or steroids, herbals, over-the-counter drugs, inhalants/inhalers, or any prescribed drugs which are not being used in accordance with the school unit's policy on medications. Students are further prohibited from possessing paraphernalia or implements used for distribution or consumption of a prohibited substance.

These prohibitions apply to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, in any school owned vehicle or vehicle approved to transport students to school activities, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

Any violation of this policy shall constitute sufficient grounds for student discipline, including suspension and/or expulsion from school, at the appropriate discretion of the administration and School Committee. Students may also be referred to law enforcement authorities for investigation and/or prosecution.

Prevention

The school unit will provide students with information and activities focused on prevention of the use of alcohol and drugs. Such information and activities will address the legal, social and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and will provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use alcohol and drugs.

Intervention

The school unit will establish and provide assistance, through a team approach, to intervene with students who are chemically involved. Students will be assisted in addressing their harmful involvement with chemicals and in continuing their educational program. Moreover, information will be provided, as appropriate, about any drug or alcohol counseling and rehabilitation programs that are available to students.

Policy Implementation and Communication

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the development and promulgation of appropriate curricula, programs, rules and procedures to implement this policy. This policy and appropriate related information shall be distributed to students and parents through means selected by the administration and School Committee.

Legal Reference: 21 USC § 812 (Controlled Substances Act)
 21 CFR Part 1300.11-15
 Pub.L.No. 101-226 (Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
 Amendments of 1989)
 17-A M.R.S.A. § 1101
 42 USC §290dd-2
 42 CFR § 2.1 et seq.
 20-A M.R.S.A. §1001(9); 4008

Cross Reference: JICH-R – Student Substance Abuse Rules
 JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
 JKD – Suspension of Students
 JKE – Expulsion of Students
 JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students
 JLD – Student Assistance Teams
 JRA – Student Education Records

Adopted: 1978
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