



Reading Elementary School
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CODE F7

STUDENT ALCOHOL AND DRUGS POLICY

It is the policy of the Reading School District that no student shall knowingly possess, use, sell, give or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any illegal drug, regulated substance, or alcohol on any school property, or at any school sponsored activity away from or within the school. It is further the policy of the district to make appropriate referrals in cases of substance abuse.

Definitions

Substance Abuse is the ingestion of drugs and or alcohol in such a way that it interferes with a person's ability to perform physically, intellectually, emotionally, or socially.¹

Drug means any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any other controlled substance as defined by state or federal regulation or statute.²

1. **Educational Program.** The Principal shall work with appropriate staff members to develop and conduct an alcohol and drug abuse educational program on a sequential basis from early childhood through grade 12 as required by Vermont law.³ The program shall be consistent with the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Plan⁴. If the school district is a recipient of federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act⁵ funds, the Act will be considered in the development of the alcohol and drug abuse educational program.
2. **Cooperative Agreements.**⁶ In dealing with substance abuse cases, every effort will be made to promote responsible decision-making by the student involved and other students who are aware of another student's use or abuse. The focus will be to encourage appropriate medical and/or psychological intervention by trained professionals. The Principal shall annually designate a member of the substance abuse team to be responsible for providing information to students and parents or guardians about outside agencies that provide substance abuse prevention services and to encourage the use of their services and programs when appropriate.

The Reading School District has established a Student Assistance Program. Students, under the age of eighteen, who have been referred or who refer themselves to the Student Assistance Program counselor may be seen individually by the counselor for purposes of substance abuse screening and consultation. It will be the goal of the Student Assistance Program to encourage the student to involve his/her parents or guardians at the earliest point in time.

3. **Referral and Consent.** Parental consent will not be required for student participation in group programs conducted within the schools that are educational in nature and designed to impart information and/or assist students in improving their sense of self-esteem. Such groups may be conducted only by trained professionals contracted by the schools to perform such service or by trained school staff who have been approved by the school administration to conduct such groups.⁷ Nor is parental consent required for referral to an outside substance abuse treatment program when a student who is twelve years of age or older is suspected of substance dependency, verified to have that dependency by a physician, and gives her or her own consent for treatment.⁸

4. **Substance Abuse Team.** In each school the principal shall form a Substance Abuse Team which shall screen students who refer themselves and students who are referred by staff for suspected drug and/or alcohol use and/or abuse problems. The team will determine the need for further screening, education, counseling or referral for treatment in each case referred to it⁹ In addition, the principal shall establish procedures for administering emergency first aid related to alcohol and drug abuse for the team to follow.¹⁰
5. **Staff Training.** The principal will work with appropriate staff to provide training necessary to ensure that teachers and health and guidance personnel are prepared to competently teach or provide other services required in the school's alcohol and drug abuse prevention education program. Training will be designed to meet the requirements of State Board Rule.¹¹ The training will include a component explaining procedures that require immediate notification of the school administration by school staff of any violation of law, including the illegal possession or distribution of drugs or alcohol.¹²
6. **Community Involvement.** The principal will work with school staff and community members to design and implement a program to inform the community about substance abuse issues and the programs and supports provided by the school to educate students about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and to assist students who are abusing alcohol or drugs.¹³
7. **Annual Report.** In a standard format provided by the Vermont Department of Education, the principal or his or her designee will submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Education describing substance abuse education programs and their effectiveness.¹⁴
8. **Notification.** The principal shall ensure that parents and students are given copies of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions contained in the procedures related to this policy, and are notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory. Notice to students will, at a minimum, be provided through inclusion of these standards and sanctions in the student handbook distributed to all students at the beginning of each school year or when a student enrolls in the school.¹⁵

¹ Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices, Rule 4211

² See definitions in 18 V.S.A. §4201; 41 U.S.C. §706(3); 21 U.S.C. §812.

³ 16 V.S.A. §131(9).

⁴ SBE Rule 4212.2 *requiring that education program be consistent with this Plan.*

⁵ 20 U.S.C. §§7101 et seq.

⁶ SBE Rule 4212.3.

⁷ This paragraph is recommended, but not required.

⁸ 18 V.S.A. §4226.

⁹ SBE Rule 4212.3D.

¹⁰ SBE Rule 4212.3B.

¹¹ SBE Rule 4213.2.

¹² SBE Rule 4212.3C

¹³ SBE Rule 4214 does not require this paragraph be included in the policy, though it does require that schools engage in community programs. This paragraph could be included in a procedure instead.

¹⁴ SBE Rule 4215 does not require this paragraph be included in the policy, though it does require that the school's annual report include information on substance abuse education programs. This paragraph could be included in a procedure instead.

¹⁵ Section not required by statute, but recommended.

***Note: SBE Rule 4212.3B requires that each "...school district policy...establish procedures for administering first aid related to alcohol and drug abuse. The procedures will define the roles of the personnel involved."**

Date Warned: 1/15/08
Date Adopted: 2/12/08
Legal Reference(s): 20 U.S.C. §§7101 *et seq.* (Safe & Drug-Free Schools & Communities Act of 1994)
16 V.S.A. §909 (Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention Education Curriculum)
16 V.S.A. 131(9) (Comprehensive Health Education)
16 V.S.A. §1045(b)(Driver Training Course)
16 V.S.A. §1165 (Alcohol and drug abuse)
18 V.S.A. §4226 (Drugs: minors, treatment, consent)
Vt. State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices §§4200 -4215)

Cross Reference: Student Conduct and Discipline (F1)
Search and Seizure (F3)
Interrogations or Searches of Students by Law Enforcement)
Officers or Other Non-School Personnel (F5)