



The Pomfret School

CHALLENGING THE MIND ★ ENCOURAGING THE HEART

CODE: F7

STUDENT ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE POLICY

The Pomfret School regards the health, safety and well being of all students, staff and visitors to be of primary importance. It is the intent of this policy to be sensitive to each of these groups, while guaranteeing their right to due process.

The Pomfret School Board recognizes that abuse of alcohol and other drugs/chemicals is a treatable health problem which at times involves conditions and violations of law, and that involvement with alcohol and other drugs can interfere with a student's academic, physical, emotional and social development. Further, the Board recognizes that the school district as well as the student, family and the community at large has a responsibility with regard to this treatable health problem.

Accordingly, the Pomfret School Board makes a commitment to the health and well-being of its students through educational prevention and intervention programs and procedures, and to an academic environment free of alcohol and other drugs/chemicals.

The Board acknowledges the following school roles in accordance with Vermont Title 16 VSA, 1165, and subsequent State mandated substance abuse curriculum plans:

1. Educating students about alcohol and other drugs/chemicals
2. Responding to those whose use of alcohol and/or other drugs/chemicals interferes with school attendance and/or performance
3. Promoting a climate in which students can seek help if they are in distress from their own or others' use of alcohol and other drugs/chemicals
4. Supporting students recovering from dependency on alcohol and/or other drugs/chemicals
5. Developing and implementing guidelines and sanctions in school which:
 - a. define violations and their consequences, both disciplinary and supportive
 - b. define immediate Procedures for handling incidents
 - c. describe a support and referral system which includes response to self-referrals and suspected users
 - d. provide information, expectations and procedures that are clear and articulated to staff, parents and students
6. Training all school personnel with regard to alcohol and drug/chemical policy, procedures, prevention and intervention strategies.

POLICY GUIDELINES, PROCEDURES, SUPPORT AND REFERRAL

I. Definitions

This policy refers to alcohol, non-prescribed drugs, illegal drugs, and improperly used chemicals/solvents.

II. Support and Referral

A. Student Assistance Team

The school will establish a Student Assistance Team which will receive and review all drug related referrals through the school nurse or counselors.

School personnel may observe over a period of time changes in academic, social or personal behavior of a student that might be related to drug abuse, even though the student has not committed any know violation.

The Student Assistance Team responds to referrals from the administration, staff, parent(s), and students. All referrals are confidential.

1. Membership

The Team consists of a teacher, school nurse, and school council and, where applicable, a substance abuse counselor. Within the legal confines of confidentiality, the Team may include other professionals in the building. Team members have special training in substance use/abuse. It is not the responsibility of the Team to label or diagnose.

2. Role of the Team

- a. to receive and review data (observational reports from teachers, counselors, coaches, administrators, other school employees);
- b. to review medical assessment data from the school nurse;
- c. to determine whether there is sufficient information to develop an action plan or whether the situation should be monitored;
- d. to assist with in-school interventions, if indicated;
- e. to participate in referrals to community agencies for further assessment/treatment;
- f. to support students returning to school from treatment facilities

3. Procedures

- a. The Team keeps written records of all referrals. These records are confidential and privileged.
- b. The Team reviews the circumstances of the referral/violation and determines whether a meeting with the student is appropriate and who should be involved.

- c. The Team may recommend that a student meet with the substance abuse counselor for evaluation and education.
- d. The Team may refer a student for further assessment/evaluation to a community agency or to a certified substance abuse counselor in the event that one is not available in the school. Whenever possible, the school works with parent(s) when further assessment or treatment is indicated.
- e. In cases of repeat offenses, the Team may recommend to the administration that outside assessment be requested in addition to the administrative consequences imposed.
- f. When there is clear evidence that a student is becoming a danger to self or to others due to substance use, the Team has an obligation to notify the parent(s). Whenever possible, this is done in conjunction with the student.

B. Suspected Use

Any member of the school community concerned that a student is harmfully involved with alcohol or other drugs or chemical substances can make a referral to the Team.

C. Self Referral

When a student not under the influence of drugs or alcohol recognizes that he/she may have a problem with alcohol and/or other drugs or chemicals and chooses to do something about this problem, the school will cooperate as fully as possible with the student.

D. Students in Recovery

The Student Assistance Team will work with the student and his/her provider to transition the student back into the school community.

E. Cooperative Agreement with Treatment Agencies/Providers

The school will maintain a written referral agreement with Vermont State Approved Treatment Agencies. Contacts with other treatment providers will also be made as needed. The agreement will specify referral and intake procedures, financial obligations of parents, confidentiality of information.

III. Violations and Consequences

These regulations apply whenever school is in session and when students are present in school-sanctioned activities, on school property or on other sites.

A. Violations

A student is considered in violation of the school's policy on alcohol and other drugs/chemicals if they are:

1. In possession of alcohol/drugs/chemicals or what is represented by or to the student as alcohol/drugs/chemicals;

2. Distributing/selling alcohol/drugs/chemicals or what the student represents or believes to be alcohol/drugs/chemicals;
3. Under the influence of alcohol/drugs/chemicals;
4. In the act of using alcohol/drugs/chemicals or what is represented by or to the student as alcohol/drugs/chemicals;
5. Knowingly in the presence of students in the act of possessing, distributing, selling or using alcohol/drugs/chemicals, or what students represent or believe to be alcohol/drugs/chemicals, except when it is clear that the student's presence is for the purpose of for safety reasons or against another's use of alcohol/drugs/chemicals.

B. Consequences for FIRST TIME Violations

1. Selling/Distributing (attempted or actual):
 - notification of police
 - suspension of student for up to ten (10) school days
 - notification of parent(s)
 - consideration by the school board for expulsion
 - referral to the Student Assistance Team
2. Possession of alcohol/drugs/chemicals, using, consuming, or under the influence of alcohol/drugs/chemicals
 - notification of police
 - suspension of student for up to five (5) school days -notification of parent(s)
 - referral to the Student Assistance Team
3. Being knowingly in the presence of drugs/alcohol/chemicals, but not involved with any of the above infractions:
 - consequences at the discretion of the Principal -referral to the Student Assistance Team
4. Consequences for violations after the first violation of any part of this Drug and Alcohol Policy may be more severe, up to and including consideration for expulsion. Consequences for any violations may also be more severe where a student has previously been disciplined for violation of any school rule.

IV. Procedures for Handling Incidents:

All personnel are required to report actual or suspected incidents of possessing, distributing, using, or consuming to the administrator, associate administrator, or designee.

A. Emergency

An emergency is defined as a student out of control, unconscious or physically ill. The priority is protecting the student from physical harm and from disrupting and/or endangering the school environment, other students, and school personnel.

1. Remain with the student.

2. Send for the School Nurse.
3. Notify the Administrator.
4. Call 911 for emergency medical assistance, if the nurse is not available.
5. If indicated, release the student to the custody of appropriate medical personnel.
6. Administrator contacts the parent(s) and implements follow-up procedures detailed in Section 3.

B. Non-Emergency

1. When there is clear evidence of an alcohol/drug/chemical violation:
 - a. The Administrator/designee contacts the police.
 - b. The Administrator/designee contacts the parent(s).
 - c. If the police do not take the student into custody, the Administrator/designee requests the parent(s) to take the student home.
 - d. If the parent(s) are not available, the Administrator can request the police take custody.
2. When there is some question of or concern expressed regarding suspected use of alcohol/drugs/chemicals:
 - a. An assessment will be made by an appropriate person as to whether the Team should be convened.
 - b. If it is determined the Team should be convened, the Team will be convened by the Administrator and shall do one or more of the following:
 1. Interview the person making the referral to determine who, what, when, and where.
 2. Interview the person being referred.
 3. Request medical assessment from the school nurse.
 4. Request and review immediate, classroom behavioral observations from teachers.
 - c. The Administrator shall:
 1. Determine if a violation exists.
 2. Notify parent(s) of concerns and procedures, precautions, and actions taken.

Unit:	Board of:	Warned	Adopted
Pomfret		10/7/04	11/4/04