

Substance Abuse

The Okemos School District has the responsibility of provide a safe and healthy environment to afford all students of the district the opportunity to develop to their maximum learning potential. The consumption or possession of mood or mind-altering chemicals, substances, or paraphernalia interferes with this responsibility. The Board of Education also recognizes that the misuse of drugs is a serious problem with legal, social and health implications for the entire school community.

As the educational institution of this community, the schools should strive to prevent drug abuse and help drug abusers through educational programs rather than exclusively punitive means.

For purposes of this policy, “drugs” shall mean: all dangerous controlled substances are so designated and prohibited by Michigan statute; all chemicals which release toxic vapors; all alcoholic beverages; any prescription or patient drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to board policy; “look a likes”; anabolic steroids; and any other illegal substances so designated and prohibited by law.

The Okemos Board of Education deems it appropriate to include as part of the curriculum at all school levels an age appropriate, developmentally-based drug and alcohol prevention program which address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and which provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol. In addition, in-service activities for employees and students, along with programs for parents and community members, will be made available.

The Board of Education also recognizes that the American Medical Association has stated the alcohol dependency is an illness often preceded by misuse and abuse. Because the Board of Education wishes to intervene early in the disease process, contact will be made with students manifesting signs of misuse or abuse to both educate and aid them should they need help.

The Board of Education recognizes that the use and abuse of chemicals is a violation of standards of student conduct. It is the expectation of the Board of Education that students violating these standards will be dealt with in accordance with school rules. The civil and personal rights of the students involved or affected shall be assumed and all due process policies of the school district will be strictly followed.

REFERENCE: Drug Prevention Program Certification Section 5145 of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1986 as Amended 1989 (P.L. 101-226); Michigan Department of Education.

Policy

Adopted: 01/12/1976

Amended: 06/02/1997

Reviewed: 10-14-19

Board Policy 4131.6: PERSONNEL: Drug-Free Work Place

The Okemos Board of Education prohibits students possessing, concealing, distributing, selling, using, avocation or being under the influence of any “drug” at any time on district property or at any district sponsored or related event.

The possession, sale, delivery, distribution, use of, and/or being under the influence of **alcohol, inhalants, look-alikes, and other drugs**, including the possession of paraphernalia or devices associated with the use of controlled substances is prohibited. Vaporizers, e-cigarettes and pipes will be considered drug paraphernalia.

1. Identification

Any employee student or person(s) shall report to the principal or designee any student suspected of possessing, selling, using or being under the influence of inappropriate substances while attending school functions.

If a student’s behavior and/or achievement indicate possible chemical abuse or dependency, school personnel shall report these observations the student’s principal or designee.

The principal or designee will investigate the report and determine if there is a reasonable basis to believe that a student may be involved as reported, making an appropriate record of the investigation and observing the student civil and due process rights.

2. Assistance and Referral

In the event the principal or designee, upon conclusion of the investigation, concludes that chemical dependency or abuse exists on the part of the student, efforts will be made to assist the student and/or parents or guardians in developing alternative courses of action to address this matter.

In all cases involving the student and drugs, the need to protect the school community from undue harm and exposure to drugs shall be balanced against the need to guard the due process rights of the individual and the opportunity to rehabilitate a member of the society within a wholesome school environment.

At a meeting with the student and parent or guardian the nature of the problem will be discussed and suggestions offered on how to eliminate chemical dependency or abuse. The school shall provide information concerning the hazard of chemical abuse and shall provide a listing of community and private agencies that can officer assistance in this matter.

Any services or materials rendered or provided by professionals or other persons not school employees will be the student’s and/or the student’s parents’ or guardians’ responsibility. The school will assume no responsibility for payment or for making arrangements for such payment.

3. Student Discipline

The school officials shall enforce the appropriate school rules and regulations which head to suspension and /or expulsion.

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In the discipline of students involved with drugs, the following factors will be considered: The potential harm of the specific drug itself, the physical hazard posed by it, and its tendency to habituate users. The degree and kind of involvement with drugs evidenced by the activities of the student offender; the number of other students affected by him/her; and his/her possible profit motive. The number of times the student has been disciplined for drug involvement previously. The overall disciplinary record of the student. The student's willingness and desire to participate in an approved substance-abuse program or to seek help from professionals, organizations, or other individuals qualified to provide services as approved by the district.

If the student and family fail to seek treatment and/or the chemical dependency symptoms persist, the student's position in school will be in jeopardy and one or more of the following actions shall be taken:

- a. Additions appropriate actions which lead toward suspension and/or expulsion.
- b. Notification of law enforcement official.
- c. Notification of county health officials.

The principal or designee may require documentation of student's successful completion or participation in a treatment program before recommending reinstatement within the school system.

4. Substance Abuse Coordination

The administration of a substance abuse program within a school shall be the responsibility of the principal or designee.

A listing of appropriate referral agencies or persons to facilitate the process outlined in Section 2 of this regulation shall be made available to each principal or designee. This listing shall be reviewed and updated annually before the academic school year begins. This school system accepts no responsibility for the courses of treatment or failure of said treatment and/or diagnosis.

5. Assistance Team

The principal, with the concurrence of the superintendent, may select qualified staff members within a school to assist in the investigation of and assistance in dealing with inappropriate advocacy or use of a substance. Use of additional persons outside of the

school staff may be obtained by the principal with the advice and concurrence of the superintendent.

REFERENCE: Drug Prevention Program Certification;
Section 5145 of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities
Act of 1986 as Amended 1989 (P.L. 101-226); Michigan
Department of Education.

Board Policy 4131.6: Personnel: Drug-Free Work Place
5144 Student Code of Conduct
1331 Use of Tobacco and Smoking Devices