

Chemical Use and Dependency

Actions taken by staff in dealing with student use/abuse with controlled substances, dangerous drugs, or alcohol will have as their first concern the welfare of the student involved and the other students in the school. Necessary and appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with state and federal law, will be taken when the guidelines of conduct regarding alcohol and other drugs are violated. Disciplinary sanctions may also include the completion of a chemical abuse assessment or the completion of a rehabilitation program. The District can not be held financially responsible for any such sanctions.

Prevention

The prevention program shall focus on education/prevention programs utilizing classroom instruction, and guidance services, and outside experts as resources.

The school will require participation in education/prevention programs that increase the awareness of the effects of chemical abuse. Student support groups shall assist those students concerned about their own use, those living in families suffering from abuse or dependency, and those concerned about the use of chemicals by significant others.

Instruction

This dimension of the prevention program shall focus on:

- a. The effect of alcohol and drugs upon the body.
- b. Skill development related to self-esteem, goal setting, decision making, conflict management, problem solving, refusal and communication skills, and techniques for resisting peer pressure.
- c. The legal, social, and health consequences of alcohol and drug use.

Guidance Services

Staff shall meet with students, individually and in small groups, to supplement drug and alcohol prevention instruction and skill development. Staff will also assist parents to maximize the prevention efforts of the school.

Intervention

The goal of the intervention program shall be to eliminate chemical use and abuse by students. Ongoing in-service will be provided for faculty and staff. Important aspects of in-service training will include dimensions of the family illness and dynamics of the addiction process; enabling behaviors; children in chemically dependent families; student experimentation; abuse and dependency; parental involvement and community resources; prevention issues and strategies; intervention techniques; treatment and aftercare support; and implementation of the program into the classroom/building. Students who voluntarily request help with an alcohol or drug problem will receive the full cooperation of School District #38 as long as school policy or state statute has not been violated.

Corrective Action

Possession, being under the influence, use, selling, buying, or giving away of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs (chemicals), drug paraphernalia, substances which are implied by the person in possession to be illegal chemicals, or the abuse of any chemical substance, is strictly prohibited on School District #38 property or as part of any School District #38 sanctioned/sponsored activity (those activities which are school sponsored and/or the student attends as a representative of School District #38 regardless of the location).

Students in violation of Bigfork School District #38 policy 3335 are to be reported immediately to the building principal. The principal shall investigate and take appropriate action. The Superintendent will be given written follow-up reports outlining infractions and the action taken.

Students who are alleged to have violated this policy will be subject to an administrative investigation. If the evidence supports the allegation, the student will be subject to the following:

1. Parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified.
2. Immediate suspension from school, Level III (pending School Board Action)
3. Remanded to the appropriate law enforcement agency
4. Recommended for expulsion for a minimum of 90 school days
5. Readmitted only after an alcohol/drug evaluation (at parent's expense) and proof of complying with the recommendations of the evaluation to the principal's satisfaction
6. Students who are readmitted will be on conditional status;
7. A second violation will result in a recommendation for permanent expulsion.

Appropriate school disciplinary action will be taken by the school administrator regardless of law enforcement action.

The student will be afforded all rights of due process as provided by law.

Cross Reference: Policy #3228/3300/3300P

Policy History

Adoption Date: September 1, 1998(Originally procedure #2334P)
Revised on: January 7, 2002