

STUDENT DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

In order to promote the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the physical, social and emotional well-being of students, this policy is designed to: aid students in abstaining from the unlawful use of alcohol and drugs; provide for early intervention when use is detected; and, provide disciplinary action when necessary. Accomplishing this requires a cooperative effort among students, parents, school staff and law enforcement. Any school staff member who has reason to suspect that a student has violated this policy is expected to report the incident to an appropriate administrator immediately.

Compliance with this policy is mandatory.

A. Prevention

The Gorham School Department will provide students with information and activities focused on abstaining from 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 illicit drugs and alcohol. The Gorham School Department will work in partnership with students, parents/guardians and local law enforcement officials to eliminate these risks for students.

B. Intervention

The Gorham School Department has a Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator to provide non-clinical chemical health assessments, assist students in addressing their harmful involvement with chemicals and in continuing their educational program. Information will be provided, as appropriate, about drug and alcohol counseling and treatment, and programs that are available to students.

C. Rules and Sanctions

Students are prohibited from consuming, possessing, furnishing, selling, receiving, buying, manufacturing or being under the influence of prohibited substances before, during and after school hours, at school, in any school building, on any school premises, in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities, off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function (such as a field trip or athletic event) where students are under the jurisdiction of the school unit, or at any time or place if the conduct directly interferes with the operation, discipline or welfare of the schools.

The term “prohibited substance” shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Alcohol;
2. Scheduled drugs (as defined in 17-A MRSA § 1101);

3. Controlled substances (as defined in the federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC § 812);
4. Any performance-enhancing substance listed on the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' banned substances list and any other substance which is illegal in Maine or the use of which is illegal for minors;
5. Prescription drugs not prescribed for the student and/or not in compliance with the Board's policy on administering medications to students (see Board policy JLCD);
6. 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 (when possessed for the purpose of inhalation);
7. Paraphernalia – implements used for distribution or consumption of a prohibited substance; or
8. Any look-alike drug or substance that is described as or is purported to be a prohibited substance defined in this section.

Any violation of the terms of this policy shall constitute sufficient grounds for student discipline, including suspension or expulsion from school, at the appropriate discretion of the administration and the Board. The School Resource Officer or other appropriate law enforcement authority shall also be notified of violations of this policy. Students who participate in athletics and co-curricular activities may be subject to additional rules and sanctions.

This policy shall be disseminated to students and parents/guardians through means selected by the administration.

Legal References: 21 USC 812 (Controlled Substance Act); 21 CFR Part 1300.11-15
 20 USC 7101 et seq. (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act)
 17-A MRSA 1101
 42 USC 290dd-2; 42 CFR 2.1 et seq.
 20-A MRSA 1001(9); 4008; 6621 et seq.

Cross References: JIC – Student Code of Conduct
 JICH-R – Student Drug and Alcohol Administrative Procedures
 JICIA – Weapons, Violence, Bullying and School Safety
 JKD – Suspension of Students
 JKE – Expulsion of Students
 JLCD – Administering Medications to Students
 JRA – Student Records

Adopted: December 14, 2011