

**NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Board Policy**

**5131.7(a)**

**STUDENTS**

Reference: Administrative Regulation #5144  
& Board Policy #1411

**Elementary and Secondary**

**Activities**

**Conduct**

**Drug, Narcotic, and Alcohol Abuse**

This policy shall apply to all dangerous drugs, controlled substances, and devices as defined by the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act (Act of 1972, No. 64), and to alcohol and alcoholic beverages as defined in Section 6308 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. This policy shall also apply to all counterfeit drugs, including but not limited to tablets, capsules, vegetative matter, and other substances sold or dispensed by a student and represented by said student as a dangerous drug, controlled substance, or narcotic. The exception to this policy would be those drugs administered on a physician's prescription and registered with the school nurse. The administration of prescribed medication should be followed as prescribed in school district Board Policy #5146. This policy shall apply whenever students are under the school's jurisdiction, including participation in field trips, sports, and all other extracurricular activities.

This school district and its individual employees shall be committed to the enforcement of all existing laws, regulations, and guidelines as adopted by federal, state, local, and school district authorities. Furthermore, the prime concern of this school district and its representatives shall be the welfare of students and school-related personnel. It must be understood that this policy alone cannot accomplish implementation of the philosophy and commitment of school district officials.

**Prevention**

"Drug information is a concept in which the main elements are usually information about drugs themselves and their (harmful) effects upon people, along with instruction regarding specific drug control legislation and other forms of social control."

School district administrators shall develop appropriate programs which will provide school district personnel with background information that will enable them to become familiar with the various types of drugs, their proper and improper uses, contemporary impact of drug and alcohol use upon society, and their history and legal aspects. It is equally vital that drug and alcohol abuse education be integrated into all curricula and should include an approach by the teacher that is scientific, legal, and moral and which offers an opportunity for student interaction through question and answer periods, research projects, and small group activities.

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“Drug education is a broad range of concerted activities and experiences which attempt to maximize opportunities for the intellectual, emotional, psychological, and physiological development of young people. It involves a total educational process embracing both cognitive and affective domains.”

It is the policy of this school district that a maximum number of educational opportunities must be provided for all students. Extracurricular activities, special community projects, and new relationships between students, school employees, and community representatives shall be developed and encouraged as educational alternatives to drug abuse.

The superintendent shall, in the case of exceptional students, take all steps necessary to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.

Periodic review and evaluation of overall effectiveness of the program described above shall be a shared responsibility, including representation from the community, the board of school directors, school district employees, and students.

### **Staff Responsibilities**

All school district personnel shall be given appropriate training in the recognition of and reaction to symptoms and signs of drug and alcohol abuse.

School district representatives shall actively seek the advice and assistance of community treatment agencies relative to the problems of drug and alcohol abuse.

Whenever a school district staff member has reason to believe that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the staff member has the specific responsibility of immediately reporting this suspicion to a building administrator who will escort the student to the health suite.

The school nurse will then determine if a medical emergency exists. If so, immediate action shall be taken to assure the student's safety (ambulance, hospital, etc.). The building administrator shall notify the parents or guardian.

If no medical emergency exists, the building administrator shall notify the parents or guardian to remove the student from the premises for health reasons.

For subsequent intervention, the building administrator will refer the student to the child study team, and in turn, the student assistance team (where one exists).

All incidents of drug or alcohol possession or abuse on school property shall be reported in accordance with the administrative procedures as set forth in the Student Discipline Code.

Whenever the student is in serious need of professional intervention and the parents refuse to cooperate or cannot be reached, the child study team and/or student assistance team shall decide if appropriate agency referral is necessary.

Since state law permits only guidance counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, or home and school visitors – including any clerical worker in the course of the clerical duties for the above – to exercise the right of confidentiality, it is imperative that all school district employees make an individual judgment regarding how much assistance may be rendered to a student and whether confidentiality may be offered. Staff members must not permit the issue of confidentiality to interfere with necessary action in the case of life-threatening situations.

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Whenever a student is thought to be involved in drugs or alcohol, the employee shall refer the student to the child study team. Whenever a student approaches an employee seeking help in a drug or alcohol related problem, the employee shall, with the student's consent or knowledge, refer the case to the child study team. Staff members shall refer to the procedures outlined in the student assistance team manual in schools where student assistance teams exist.

### **Enforcement**

Whenever it is determined that a student possesses or is using controlled substances or devices or alcoholic beverages while under the school's jurisdiction, the student shall be suspended for such a period as determined by the principal, and such student may be placed on probation in accordance with the regulations and guidelines on student rights and responsibilities and the applicable provisions of the school code.

A student who, while subject to the school's jurisdiction, sells or distributes controlled substances or devices or alcoholic beverages may, depending upon circumstances and investigation by the school administration, be given a hearing before the board of school directors or subcommittee thereof to determine whether or not the student's conduct warrants expulsion.

The possession, sale, or distribution of all drugs and alcoholic beverages while under the school's jurisdiction is a criminal offense and therefore subject to legal prosecution. Consequently, whenever the principal has reliable information that drugs or alcoholic beverages are being sold or distributed, or are in the possession of a student, or have been sold or distributed, or were in possession of a student while under the school's jurisdiction, the principal shall make an investigation to ascertain all pertinent facts. If the principal determines that the information has been substantiated, appropriate law enforcement authorities shall be called, the information turned over to them, and any subsequent investigation placed in their hands. Parents shall in all cases be notified immediately by school authorities of any alleged violation hereinabove set forth.

School district employees and students shall be encouraged to understand the importance of reporting observed incidents involving the sale or distribution of drugs or alcoholic beverages.

With reasonable suspicion, desks and lockers provided for the use of students shall be subject to inspection at any time by the school authorities.

Similarly, with reasonable suspicion, any student may be requested to produce for inspection by school authorities any substance or article which such student may have on or about his/her person. This includes divulging the contents of pockets and handbags. If the student fails to cooperate, the matter will be turned over to proper law enforcement authorities, while at the same time notifying the parents.

School authorities have the right to take possession of any illegal materials and release them to law enforcement authorities after obtaining a proper receipt.

Police and public law enforcement officers shall not make arrests and/or conduct investigations upon school premises for offenses committed by students while not under the school's jurisdiction, except in "hot pursuit," as defined in district Policy 1411(a), paragraph 3.

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**5131.7(d)**

School personnel shall be obliged to work with local law enforcement agencies to resolve the differences existing among various police jurisdictions within the school district concerning policy on drug abuse prevention and enforcement.

A student charged by law enforcement authorities with violation of Act 1972, No. 64, or Section 6308 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code while not under the school's jurisdiction shall be permitted to continue attending classes, but shall be subject to all rules of conduct of the North Penn School District.

In drug, narcotic, and alcohol abuse problems the school authorities shall involve police where appropriate in the manner provided by Policy 1411.

Policy:

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