

Policy Code: 4325 Student Substance Abuse

The board of education recognizes that alcohol and other drug use is a major health problem for young people, both nationally and in our community. Drug use has the potential to affect people in all segments of the population. It interferes with the well-being and academic performance of students and is incompatible with the mission of our school district.

The Board stands clearly against any illegal substance use and accepts its shared responsibility with the community in supporting prevention, intervention and treatment programs. Further, the Board firmly believes that prevention of substance abuse is its primary aim and mandates instruction of effective substance abuse curricula at elementary, middle and high school as part of a coordinated school health program. In addition, the board charges the superintendent with the responsibility for supporting a Student Assistance Program (SAP) aimed at students whose lives are affected by alcohol or drug use.

Unauthorized or illegal drugs and alcohol are a threat to safe and orderly schools and will not be tolerated. School administrators are authorized to take specific measures aimed at ensuring that possession or use of controlled substances on school campuses or at school activities will not be tolerated. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, requesting assistance from the police to search lockers and other areas of the campus, utilization of police canine services, undercover surveillance, parking lot surveillance and when suspicions warrant, student searches. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting, selling or being under the influence of any of the following substances:

- narcotic drugs;
- hallucinogenic drugs;
- amphetamines;
- barbiturates;
- marijuana or any other controlled substance;
- any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage or fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor;
- any chemicals or products, used inappropriately with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or of otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior which may be damaging to the student or disruptive to the school environment.

Tobacco use is also illegal for students under age 18, and has serious long-term health consequences. It is referenced in CHCCS policy 4320.

This prohibition applies in all of the following circumstances:

- while in any school building or on any school premises before, during or after school hours;
- while on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity;
- while waiting at any school bus stop;
- during any school function, extracurricular activity or other activity or event;
- when subject to the authority of school personnel;
- any time or place when the student's behavior has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.

Students also are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting or selling drug paraphernalia or counterfeit (fake) drugs. In all circumstances in which students must comply with board policies (see board policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies), students may not in any way participate in the selling or transmitting of prohibited substances, regardless of whether the sale or transmission ultimately occurs on school property.

Prescription and over the counter drugs are not in violation of this policy if possessed and used in accordance with board policy 6125, Administering Medicines to Students. The principal may authorize other lawful uses of substances otherwise prohibited by this policy, such as for approved school projects.

Students suspended from school for substance use, either in-school (ISS) or out-of-school (OSS), are not allowed to attend or participate in any school activities on days when they are suspended.

School personnel who observe students in possession of drugs or who suspect that a student is under the influence of a controlled or illegal substance are required to report the concern immediately to school administration. The school administrator will notify the School Resource Officer and SAP school contact as indicated.

School personnel will call 911, school administration and the School Resource Officer if a student appears to be in danger to self or others.

Middle school offenses will accumulate over all three years; high school offenses will likewise accumulate over four years. Offenses will be erased during the transition from middle to high school, allowing the student to begin high school with a clean slate.

This policy shall apply to all students with the understanding that consequences for elementary school students will be decided on a case by case basis.

Consequences:

The consequences established by the Board of Education are based on the beliefs that:

- substance use by a school-age child is in violation of law, and any on-campus use will be reported to law enforcement for legal action
- the emphasis on school consequences should be primarily educational, not punitive
- out-of-school suspension removes the student from the educational setting and is not known to be an effective deterrent to continued substance use
- in order to provide a safe school climate, increased measures will be taken to eliminate use of illegal substances on campus, including increased surveillance and more targeted use of canine search units
- any new policy should be fair, consistent, and equally applied to all students across the CHCCS district

Because any use of substances by a school-age child is illegal, any reference to substance use will be termed abuse. The following actions will occur for all students found to be in possession

or under the influence of a controlled, illegal, or mood altering substance or in possession of drug paraphernalia:

I. On-campus substance abuse or possession

- a. The term “on-campus” includes field trips, athletics and all co-curricular, extra-curricular, and school-sponsored activities, or any other time that students are subject to the authority of school personnel, regardless of the location of the violation.
- b. For all offenses of alcohol, drugs, and drug paraphernalia on school campus, school administrators will be required to:
 - i. Inform parent/guardian of violation and action to be taken by school
 - ii. Notify School Resource Officer
 - iii. File charges against the student with local law enforcement
- c. School action for first offense will be:
 - i. Loss of off-campus lunch and campus parking privileges without financial reimbursement for 90 school days
 - ii. Five (5) days in-school suspension (ISS).
 - iii. Student and parent to meet with SAP school contact to develop Personal Accountability Plan, minimum of three (3) sessions, to be monitored by the SAP school contact
 - iv. Reentry conference for student and parent/guardian with school administrator (student remains in ISS until parent/guardian attends)
- d. School action for second offense will be:

Loss of off-campus lunch and campus parking privileges without financial reimbursement for 180 school days

AND

Either

 - i. 10 days out-of-school (OSS) suspension
 - ii. Removal from all athletic, co- and extra- curricular activities for 45 school days or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first
 - iii. Meet with SAP school contact or private therapist for a substance use screening inventory, such as SASSI
 - iv. Continue Personal Accountability Plan for six (6) additional sessions with SAP school contact
 - v. Reentry conference for student and parent/guardian with administrator (student attends ISS until parent/guardian attends)

Or

 - i. Long-term suspension for 45 school days or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first
 - ii. Option for early re-entry back to school upon successful completion of incentive program

- e. School action for third offense will be:
 - i. Permanent loss of off-campus lunch and campus parking privileges without financial reimbursement
 - ii. Long-term suspension for 45 school days or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first
 - iii. Option for early re-entry back to school upon successful completion of incentive program
- f. Failure to complete requirements of consequences for 1st offense will result in 10 days OSS; failure to complete consequences for 2nd offense will result in long-term suspension (45 school days or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first).

II. Distribution or intent to distribute substances on school campus

- a. For any offense on school campus that involves distribution or intent to distribute alcohol or any substance used for the purpose of altering mood, school administrators will be required to:
 - i. Inform parent / guardian of action to be taken by school
 - ii. Notify School Resource Officer
 - iii. File charges against student with local law enforcement
- b. This offense includes distribution or intent to distribute prescription mood-altering medications, including those intended to be administered during the school day in accordance with board policy 6125, Administering Medicines to Students.
- c. For the first offense, a student will be suspended from school for 90 school days or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first.
- d. For a second offense, a student will be suspended for the remainder of the school year and could be considered for expulsion.

III. Reports of off-campus substance abuse

- a. For any student age 16 or above charged violating any law pertaining to illegal possession, use or distribution of alcohol, drugs, or drug-paraphernalia that occur off campus, school administrators will be required to:
 - i. Acquire police report
 - ii. Afford student due process
 - Notify student and parent/guardian(s) that charges exist
 - Give student right to explain charge(s); complete and sign due process form
 - Give student option to have parent present
 - Present student report to police department for corroboration
 - School administrator will investigate further if additional fact-finding is necessary

- iii. Principal determines legitimacy of off-campus charge
 - iv. If charge is confirmed, student and parent/guardian(s) will be informed by school administrator of action to be taken by the school
- b. School action for first offense will be:
- i. Loss of off-campus lunch and campus parking privileges without financial reimbursement for 90 school days
 - ii. Loss of privilege to compete or represent school for ten (10) school days
 - iii. Meet with SAP school contact to develop Personal Accountability Plan, minimum of 3 sessions, to be monitored by SAP school contact
- c. School action for second offense will be:
- Loss of off-campus lunch and campus parking privileges without financial reimbursement for 180 school days
AND
- Either
- i. Removal from athletic, co- and extra- curricular participation for 45 school days or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first
 - ii. Meet with SAP school contact or private therapist for SASSI
 - iii. Continue Personal Accountability Plan for additional 6 sessions with SAP school contact
- Or
- Removal from athletic, co- and extra- curricular participation for 90 school days or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first
- b. School action for third offense will be:
- Permanent loss of off-campus lunch and campus parking privileges
AND
- Either
- Removal from athletic, co- and extra- curricular participation for 90 school days or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first
- Or
- Successful completion of incentive program
- c. All other reports of suspected substance use by a student, including concerns of teachers, parents, or other students, should be referred to the SAP school contact for intervention.

Legal references: G.S. 18B-301; chap. 90, art 5; 115C-47, -288, -307, -390, -391

Cross references: Student Behavior Policies, 4300, Criminal Behavior Policies, 4335, Administering Medicine to Students, 6125.