

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 719
PRIOR LAKE - SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

514.1 CHEMICAL USE AND ABUSE (STUDENT)

I. PURPOSE

The school board believes that the health and well being of all students is of vital importance. Our responsibility is to encourage and support chemical free lifestyles. It is the intent of this policy to create an environment in which students, parents/legal guardians and staff are able to report concerns they may have about chemical health issues.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Chemical abuse" means use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, without compelling medical reason, in a manner that induces mental, emotional, or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional or socially disordering behavior, to the extent that the student's normal function in academic, school, or social activities is chronically impaired.
- B. "Chemicals" includes but is not limited to alcohol, toxic substances, and controlled substances as defined in the school district's Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School policy.
- C. "School location" includes any school building or on any school premises; on 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 district; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the school district or otherwise engaged in school district business.
- D. School district staff – for purposes of this policy, school district staff are defined as all persons responsible for students involved in school-related activities, including but not limited to employees, coaches, bus drivers, chaperones, and volunteers.
- E. "Smoking" means inhaling or exhaling smoke from any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted tobacco or plant product. This also includes the use of electronic cigarettes, including the inhaling and exhaling of vapor from any electronic delivery device.

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The use, possession, and exchange of tobacco, including synthetic tobacco, alcohol, and other illegal and harmful chemicals are prohibited on both school district property and at school-related functions.

- B. The school district will act to investigate incidences of chemical health issues regardless of where the chemical activity occurred.
- C. The school district staff is expected to report all suspicious behaviors and/or incidents potentially relating to chemical use/abuse to chemical health staff, school social worker, school counselor and/or principals.
- D. The school district will ensure that all staff remain knowledgeable about current chemical health issues by providing ongoing education and training, in order to respond to the needs of students.
- E. This policy applies to all students, including students who are 18 or over.
- F. The school district will foster a chemical-free climate by providing ongoing opportunities for education and other types of involvement and by encouraging students and parents/legal guardians to share responsibility for choosing a chemical-free lifestyle.
- G. Prevention programs and materials, including, but not limited to, age-appropriate curriculum, chemical health awareness activities and opportunities for student, staff and parent/legal guardian involvement are endorsed and supported by the school district.

INSTRUCTION

- A. Every school shall provide an instructional program in chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency. The school district may involve parents/legal guardians, students, health care professionals, state department staff, and members of the community in developing the curriculum.
- B. Each school shall have age-appropriate and developmentally based activities that:
 1. address the consequences of violence and the illegal use of drugs, as appropriate;
 2. promote a sense of individual responsibility;
 3. teach students that most people do not illegally use drugs;
 4. teach students to recognize social and peer pressure to use drugs illegally and the skills for resisting illegal drug use;
 5. teach students about the dangers of emerging drugs;
 6. engage students in the learning process; and
 7. incorporate activities in secondary schools that reinforce prevention activities implemented in elementary schools.

REPORTS

- A. In the event that a school district employee knows that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing or selling chemicals in a school location:
 1. The employee shall immediately either take the student to an administrator or notify an appropriate administrator of the observation and continue to observe the student until the administrator arrives.

2. The administrator will notify the student's parents/legal guardians. If there is a medical emergency, the administrator will notify the school nurse and/or outside medical personnel as appropriate.
 3. The administrator will notify law enforcement officials, the student's counselor, and the chemical preassessment team.
 4. The administrator and/or law enforcement officials will confiscate the chemicals and/or conduct a search of the student's person, effects, locker, vehicle, or areas within the student's control. Searches by school district officials shall be in accordance with school board policies regarding search and seizure.
 5. The school district will take appropriate disciplinary action in compliance with the student discipline code. Such discipline may include immediate suspension, initiation of expulsion proceedings, and/or referral to a detoxification center or medical center.
- B. If a school district employee has reason to believe that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing or selling chemicals:
1. The employee shall notify the building administrator or a member of the preassessment team and shall describe the basis for the suspicion. The building administrator and/or team will determine what action should be taken. Action may include conducting an investigation, gathering data, scheduling a conference with the student or parents/legal guardians, or providing a meeting between a single member of the team and the student to discuss the behaviors that have been reported and attempting to ascertain facts regarding chemical abuse.
 2. The team may determine there is no chemical abuse. If the team determines there is chemical abuse, the team must select an appropriate course of action, which may include referral to a school counselor; referral to a treatment program; referral for screening, assessment, and treatment planning; participation in support groups; or other appropriate measures.
- C. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution or sale of chemicals shall be suspended in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, MN. Statute, and proposed for expulsion.
- D. Searches by school district officials in connection with the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution or sale of chemicals will be conducted in accordance with school board policies related to search and seizure.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Upon receipt of a report or referral, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district staff or third party designee, e.g. law enforcement.
- B. The school district may take immediate steps at its discretion to protect the good faith reporter or others pending completion of the investigation. Retaliation in any form will not be tolerated.
- C. Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to disciplinary action or counseling intervention.

D. Activity consequences at Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools include:

First Violation: 25% of consecutive interscholastic contests in the regular season

Second Violation: 50% of consecutive interscholastic contests on the regular season schedule

Third Violation: student may lose eligibility for one calendar year

Consequences follow the Minnesota State High School League where applicable.

See ISD 719 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Behavior Regulations for further district action.

Legal References: MN Stat. § 121A.40 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)

Cross References: [Policy 418 \(Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School\)](#)
[Minnesota State High School League Bylaws](#)

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