

STUDENT CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Falmouth School Department emphatically states its disapproval of substance abuse. The use of unprescribed drugs and of tobacco and alcohol by minors is against the law. Their use jeopardizes students' social, emotional, and physical health and welfare. The School Department's goal is to create a nurturing environment for all students.

The intent of this policy is to maintain the traditional high standards of behavior and achievement in the Falmouth School System, to protect the rights and safety of our students and staff, and to offer support and guidance for those in violation.

Chemical dependency is a progressive illness and one that is treatable. We believe:

- 1) Children are our most precious resource.
- 2) The use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drugs impairs performance in school or school-related activities and must be prevented.
- 3) Chemical dependency results in social, emotional and health related problems.
- 4) School personnel and the community must play a helping, encouraging role with individuals as they seek and receive assistance to alleviate the effects of substance abuse.

The School Department recognizes its responsibility to maintain a support system to aid those in need. System-wide procedures will be established to deal with chemical dependency. We will encourage help for those students who have been determined by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator to be chemically dependent and/or living in a chemically dependent family.

POLICY

The use of ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, and/or OTHER DRUGS WILL NOT be tolerated on school grounds or at any school function. Students are prohibited from consuming, possessing, furnishing, selling, receiving, buying or being under the influence of prohibited substances in school or at any school sponsored, organized or associated function or on any property, facility or vehicle owned or operated by or for the school. The scope of this policy extends from August 10 through July 1.

Curriculum: The School Department supports early intervention through education, referral, follow-up and support services for students who may have substance use and abuse related problems, either personal or familial in nature.

Prescription drugs: Students taking prescription medications will not be in violation of this policy. Such medications must be specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his or her doctor and taken in accordance with the policy for the administration of medicine to students.

Extracurricular activities: The Falmouth School Department considers extra-curricular activities to be a privilege and not a right. Participants in such activities represent the schools to the public and serve as role models for younger children in the district.

Students who participate in extra-curricular activities will therefore be held to the higher standard of remaining chemical free at all times, whether at a school activity or elsewhere. In addition, students participating in extra-curricular activities are prohibited from knowingly being present where prohibited substances are being used by other students, and their knowingly being present in such

circumstances is a violation of this policy.

Voluntary referral: The Falmouth School Department encourages students to consult with the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator or other staff member. Such referral shall be without penalty so long as 1) the student self-refers before a violation has been detected, reported, or charged; 2) the student is not subject to any current disciplinary action; and 3) he or she follows a plan of help and recovery as developed by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, with the input of the student, his or her parents or guardian, and the building administrator.

DEFINITIONS

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

- 1) Alcohol, tobacco, or other substances defined as any Scheduled drug (as defined in 17-A M.R.S.A. S1101 as amended);
- 2) Unprescribed steroids or stimulants, and volatile materials such as glue, paint or aerosols, when possessed for the purpose of inhalation.
- 3) Any related paraphernalia to prohibited substances (including the substances named above).

TOBACCO POLICY

The Falmouth School Department prohibits smoking and the use of all tobacco products in school buildings, facilities, on school grounds, on school busses, during school sponsored events. The furnishing, selling or buying of tobacco products is also a violation of this policy.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

When a violation of this policy may have taken place, the building administrator shall:

1. Verify the offense and confiscate prohibited substance, if possible.
2. Meet with student.
3. Notify parent/guardian, then take additional steps below.

First offense:

4. Refer to Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator.
5. Suspend student for up to one day in school.

Second offense:

4. Notify police (if under 18).
5. Follow-up (mandatory visit) with the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator.
6. Suspend student for up to three days in school.

Third and subsequent offenses:

4. Notify police (if under 18).
5. Cessation program required.
6. Suspend student for up to five days in school.

DISCRETION

The building administrator shall have the authority and discretion to deviate for good cause from the disciplinary measures set above. The degree to which a student voluntarily sought help shall be taken into account.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

The Falmouth School Department prohibits the use of drugs, alcohol, and other prohibited substances in school buildings, facilities, on school grounds, on school busses, during school sponsored events, and at all other times. The furnishing, selling or buying of drugs, alcohol, and other prohibited substances is also a violation of this policy.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION: ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The penalties below apply to all elementary school students.

When a violation of this policy may have taken place, the building administrator shall:

1. Verify the offense and confiscate prohibited substance, if possible.
2. Meet with student.
3. Notify Superintendent and, if appropriate, law enforcement, and meet with parent/guardian.
4. Provide disciplinary action as appropriate.
5. Refer student to Substance Abuse Coordinator, then take additional steps below.

First offense: no additional steps.

Second and subsequent offenses:

6. Suspend student in school.
7. Refer to Department of Human Services (if appropriate).

DISCIPLINARY ACTION: MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

The disciplinary penalties described below apply to all middle and high school students. For students who participate in extra-curricular activities, additional penalties are specified in paragraphs 6B. These additional penalties shall apply to violations of the policy not only in school or at any school event, but at any time or location, or when the student is knowingly present where prohibited substances are being used by other students.

When a violation of this policy may have taken place, the building administrator shall:

1. Verify offense, and, if possible, confiscate prohibited substance and/or paraphernalia.
1. Meet with student.
2. Notify parent/guardian, Superintendent and law enforcement.
3. Meet with parent/guardian to discuss policy and referral, then take additional steps below.

First offense:

5. Refer student/parent to Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for an assessment.
- 6A. Suspend student for up to five days of in or out of school.
- 6B. Additional penalties for students participating in extra-curricular activities: Suspend student from all extra-curricular activities for two weeks beginning the next time any of the student's extra-curricular activities meet. At the discretion of the coach or faculty advisor and the building administrator, the student may participate in practice or meetings. However, the student may not participate in competition, performances, or the like. Verification of assessment from the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator is required for re-entry into competition.

Second offense:

5. Refer student to Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator to develop an appropriate treatment plan.

6A. Suspend student for up to seven days of in or out of school.

6B. Additional penalties for students participating in extra-curricular activities:

- (i.) Suspend student from all extra-curricular activities for 30 days, beginning the next time any of the student's extra-curricular activities meet. Such 30-day suspension will be carried over to the next school year. The number of days between July 1 and August 10 are not counted as part of the 30-day suspension period. At the discretion of the coach or faculty advisor and the building administrator, the student may participate in practice or meetings. However, the student may not participate in competition, performances, or the like.
- (ii.) Deny inclusion in any school sponsored closing ceremonies for the activities in which the student participated at the time of the violation.
- (iii.) To be eligible to participate in another activity the student must have verification assessment from the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator and must meet with the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator or his or her designee once a week during the first four weeks of return to participation.

Third and subsequent offenses:

5. Refer student to Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator to develop an appropriate treatment plan.

6A. Suspend student for up to ten days of in or out of school.

6B. Additional penalties for students participating in extra-curricular activities:

- (i.) Suspend student from all extra-curricular activities for 60 days, beginning the next time any of the student's extra-curricular activities meet. Such 60-day suspension will be carried over to the next school year. The number of days between July 1 and August 10 are not counted as part of the 60-day suspension period. At the discretion of the coach or faculty advisor and the building administrator, the student may participate in practice or meetings. However, the student may not participate in competition, performances, or the like.
- (ii.) Deny inclusion in any school sponsored closing ceremonies for the activities in which the student participated at the time of the violation.
- (iii.) To be eligible to participate in another activity the student must have verification assessment from the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator and must meet with the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator or his or her designee once a week during the first four weeks of return to participation.

Timing of penalties: The penalties first take effect on the day the administrator determines there has been a violation, and shall remain in effect for the specified number of calendar days, excepting those days between July 1 and August 10.

Fresh start: Regardless of the number of offenses a student may have committed in grades 1-8, that student will be given a fresh start in high school. The first offense committed from the beginning of ninth grade will be deemed a "first offense" for the purposes of imposing disciplinary penalties.

Role of school staff: Any staff member with reasonable basis to suspect a student of violating the Chemical Health/Extra-curricular policy shall:

1. Take necessary action to secure the health and safety of the student(s) involved. Under no circumstances should a student be left unsupervised.
2. Notify the school administrator, if possible.
3. Remove the student from the function and/or return the student to school grounds retaining the student while proceeding with the following steps.
4. Call the student's parent or guardian to assume physical responsibility.
5. If the parent or guardian is not available, refer to the student's emergency health information and contact a person who has been listed to assume responsibility.
6. If no one is available to assume physical responsibility for the student, and if it is after school hours, call the appropriate law enforcement to provide transportation to the parent or guardian
7. If there are no other alternatives available, an employee may transport the student home if accompanied by another adult.

DISCRETION OF SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent, in consultation with the building administrator may, in his or her sole discretion, for good cause, decrease, modify, or increase the disciplinary action from the disciplinary measures set forth above. In considering any modification to the disciplinary actions set forth in the policy, the Superintendent, in consultation with the building administrator, may take into account any or all of the following:

- The clarity and accuracy of the information the student provided regarding his or her involvement in the activities determined to constitute a violation of this policy.
- The degree to which the student voluntarily sought help and assistance in addressing behaviors and actions associated with a violation of this policy.
- The scope of a student's positive and documented contributions to the school and/or community following a violation of this policy.
- The ability of the student to present satisfactory evidence that the behavior that was the cause of the student being found in violation of the policy will not likely recur.

I have read and understand the Chemical Health Policy and procedures and discussed them with my child. For the health and safety of my child and others, I agree to support the above policy and procedures.

Parent/guardian signature

Additional parent/guardian signature

Please Print Name Please Print Name

I have read and understand the Chemical Health Policy and procedures and discussed them with my parent or guardian. For my health and safety and that of others, I pledge not to consume, possess, furnish, sell, receive, buy or be under the influence of prohibited substances. I understand the penalties which will be imposed, and/or the extra-curricular activities privileges which will be lost, if I fail to honor this promise.

Student Signature

Please Print Name

Adopted: 1992
Revised: September 1994
Revised: