

SUGAR VALLEY RURAL CHARTER SCHOOL

POLICY NUMBER: 227
SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**
DATE ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 1997
DATE LAST REVISED: DECEMBER 2008

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

PURPOSE

The Board recognizes that misuse of drugs and alcohol poses a serious problem for students with legal, physical, and social implications for the whole school community. To avoid this potential danger requires all those who have responsibilities for the health and well-being of our students makes the greatest effort. As the public education institution of our area, the school shall strive to discourage and prevent drug abuse.

The school's approach to drug abuse prevention consists of 4 major components:

1. A Drug and Alcohol Committee representing all areas of communities to fund, advise, and coordinate prevention activities.
2. An educational program designed and presented to assist students in making appropriate decisions to avoid drug abuse.
3. A student assistance program to promote early identification of youngsters at risk and provide school based interventions resulting in appropriate referrals.
4. A set of rules and regulations and guidelines for action regarding student involvement with drugs and alcohol.

DEFINITION

Confidentiality - Allowing only authorized disclosure of information.

Counselor - The designated guidance person in each building who is charged with providing and/or coordinating drug and alcohol counseling to students.

Drug - Any substance that when used brings about physical, emotional, or mental changes in people or that abused brings about physical, emotional, or mental changes in people. **Drugs** shall include all controlled substances prohibited by law, anabolic steroids, all alcoholic beverages, any prescription or patent drug, except look-alike drugs. The term drug is more typically used to refer to

marijuana, amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers, narcotics, cocaine, hallucinogenic, and volatile chemicals (glue and other inhalants).

Extracurricular Activities - These are school activities that are a privilege to belong to (not a right) and they include athletic teams, cheerleading squads, intramural teams, musical performance units, clubs, all before or after school activities or events, and student drivers.

Medication - A body-altering substance properly labeled by the drug manufacturer, pharmacy or physician and which has been identified by a student's parents or guardians, via written notification to the principal, and/or his/her designee, as being permitted to be used by the student while at school. The medicine shall be kept in the infirmary, or office, and the student must come there to take it at the proper time.

Non-student - An individual who is not officially enrolled as a student in the Sugar Valley Rural Charter School.

Paraphernalia - Any item used to assist in manufacture, refinement, ingestion or use of drugs, including but not limited to items such as pipes, smoking/rolling papers, and syringes. The term also includes items that have multiple uses when such items are actually used to assist in, or are intended for use to assist in, manufacture, refinement, ingestion or use of drugs, including but not limited to items such as scales, plastic bags, containers, lighters, and matches.

Parent/Guardian - One who has the legal responsibility for the student.

Administrator – Person(s) or his designee in charge of the building

Policy - A plan to spell out the course of action Sugar Valley Rural Charter School will use to deal with drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

Student Assistance Team(s) - Core group(s) of school and agency personnel (central office administrator, school administrator, school counselor, classroom teachers, drug and alcohol agency designee and **MHMR** designee) specially trained to identify students with potential drug (including alcohol) and/or suicide/mental health concerns and intervene through appropriate referrals and the establishment of intervention groups.

AUTHORITY

Prohibited Drug Use

Recognizing the debilitating effect that the abuse of drugs and/or controlled substances can have on human performance, the Board prohibits the use, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of any drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances by any person under its jurisdiction or on school property. In furtherance of this policy, the following guidelines shall be followed:

1. No student may possess drugs or paraphernalia; or personally use or furnish to others any amount of drugs:
 - a. While in or upon any school owned property.
 - b. During any school sponsored activity, whether on or off school property.

- c. While using school provided transportation.
 - d. When acting as a representative of the school district, whether approved or not.
2. No student may consume, possess, or supply to others any non-drug substance which is being represented as a drug (for example, look-alikes and medicines).
 3. No student may attend or report to school, or to any school function, while under the influence of drugs.
 4. No student may make, possess, or supply to others any paraphernalia.
 5. Students taking medication during school hours will have their parent/legal guardian take the substance to the nurse's office immediately upon reporting to school. The medication will be kept in the nurse's office, and the student must come there to take it at the proper time. The parent will send written notification from the doctor to the administration permitting the student to use the medication while at school. The medication shall be in its original container.
 6. Lockers belong to the school and may be opened and searched for administrative reasons. Students should not keep confidential material in their lockers.
 7. Automobiles parked on school property may be searched if there is reasonable suspicion to believe a school rule has been violated.
 8. Trained canine units may be used to sniff for drugs, without prior announcement. The administration shall search any locker or bag that is tagged by the canine unit.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The CEO shall:

1. Prepare rules for the identification, amelioration and control of drug abuse in the schools, and otherwise carry out and implement this policy.
2. Establish procedures to deal with students suspected of possessing, being under the influence, or distributing controlled substances in school, up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution.
3. Discourage abuse of controlled substances.
4. Establish procedures for instruction and readmission to school of students convicted of offenses involving controlled substances.
5. Provide appropriate training programs for staff and other responsible persons, particularly in identifying signs of symptoms of drug use and abuse by students.

GUIDELINES

Reporting

Incidents of possession, use and sale of controlled substances, including alcohol, by any person on school property shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.

Readmission

The Board may require participation in drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other programs as a condition of reinstatement into the school educational, athletic program and all extracurricular activities.

Confidentiality

The privileged confidentiality between students and guidance counselors, school nurses, school psychologist, and other school employees shall be respected; and no confidential communication made to any such employee shall be required to be revealed without the consent of the student or his/her parent, unless the best interests of the student can be served only by such release, or if policy or law requires release.

Guidelines to All Staff

Teachers, counselors, coaches, administrators, directors of extracurricular activities and other appropriate individuals, and other staff members have responsibility for overall well-being of students in our schools. As part of this responsibility it shall be the duty of all staff members, to whom it appears that a pupil may be under the influence of drugs, within the schools or on school property, or at a school function, to report the matter, as possible, to the administration or the responsible authority of the school. In situations where there are other strong reasons to believe a student may be abusing drugs or otherwise violating the rules and regulations and intent of this policy, the teacher, counselor, or other staff member shall report such suspicions and reasons for them to the administration, or another responsible school authority.

The guidelines for action prepared as part of this policy shall direct the actions of school officials, coaches, and directors of extracurricular activities in regard to specific situations.

It is expected that teachers, counselors, coaches, principals, directors of extracurricular activities and other appropriate individuals shall notify and confer with the at the appropriate times and in ways that enlist the Team's assistance and cooperation in helping the student. It is believed that the greatest gains can be made through the joint efforts and cooperative relationships of school staff members and families.

The school operates extracurricular activities as an extension of the regular comprehensive educational program. District personnel have the authority and obligation to conduct these school programs under safe conditions. Student participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege rather than a right. This privilege may be denied to students whose behavior and conduct are unacceptable for participation.

Coaches, advisors and other school personnel who direct extracurricular activities are responsible for the overall well-being of students participating in these activities.

These persons often have a strong positive influence on the students they coach, guide and direct in extracurricular activities. It is believed that coaches and others may be able to offer greater assistance in the district's efforts to discourage and/or eliminate student use of drugs and alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful substances such as anabolic steroids.

Instructional Program

The Board directs that a K-12 drug education program be provided that educates students about the dangers in using tobacco, drugs and alcohol, and other harmful substances such as anabolic steroids in the hope that they will also develop those values, attitudes, and judgments that will prepare students to make healthy choices concerning the use of drugs and/or alcohol.

The instructional program shall provide opportunity for critical study of a broad spectrum of the factors that may unleash the potential of drugs and other substances for the preservation or destruction of human life. Among the substances studied are tobacco, anabolic steroids, caffeine, legal unrestricted and restricted drugs, lookalike drugs, illegal drugs, gasoline, lighter fluids, butane, whippets and other non-drugs, such as volatile chemicals, solvents and others. Laws governing drugs, the potential consequences of illegal infractions, and the sociological and personal aspects of drug abuse, and the content and purpose of this policy shall also be presented and discussed.

The instructional program is based on the philosophy that the home, peers and decision-making skills influence drug abuse. The major objectives of the programs are as follows:

1. To guide students to understand the value systems and motivations that underlies the use, misuse and abuse of drugs and alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful substances, such as anabolic steroids.
2. To provide support to students during transitional periods to assure successful adjustment.
3. To provide opportunities for students to critically examine a wider range of factual information and expert opinion.
4. To discourage the experimental and recreational use, habitual use, and abuse of drugs and alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful substances, such as anabolic steroids.
5. To encourage students to seek assistance for real or potential drug (including alcohol) problems through organizations and agencies.

Student Assistance Program

The Board directs that a secondary (5-12) Student Assistance Program be provided in all secondary schools according to guidelines promulgated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and related agencies such as the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Board further directs that the Sugar Valley Rural Charter School Drug and Alcohol Committee make policy and regulatory recommendations to the Board to ensure the effective operation of the program so that necessary cooperation and coordination of various local, county and state agencies occur.

The Student Assistance Program shall provide a mechanism to identify high-risk teenagers who are having school-related problems because of drug (including alcohol) use and/or other mental health problems. The Student Assistance Program will also become involved with students who abuse drugs/alcohol in other settings. It shall also serve as a method for intervening and referring such students to appropriate helping agencies. The Student Assistance Program is an early identification and intervention program, not a treatment program. It is a systematic process that makes it possible for school personnel to determine which students are having problems and refer

them for help. The heart of the program is a Student Assistance Team, which is a core group of school personnel and agency designees who are specially trained to work with high-risk students and their families, as well as other school staff members.