

File: JICH-R - ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Acknowledging the gravity and urgency of the problems of drug use and abuse within our society, the Walpole School Committee recognizes the need for the following guidelines and procedures.

Definition: In general, drug abuse is defined as the illegal possession, transfer, sale, or illicit use of drugs and narcotics on school property by students or others. For purposes of these guidelines, the word "drug" shall include alcohol, except the penalty for an alcohol violation shall not include expulsion.

1. General Procedures

Whenever a staff member has reasonable grounds to believe that a student is involved in the possession, distribution, sale, or illicit use of drugs in school, that member shall immediately report the facts and circumstances to the building principal or his/her designee.

Staff members should not make direct accusations or inquiries, but simply refer the student's name and the facts and circumstances of the situation to the building principal or his/her designee.

2. Student Requiring Medication While In School

When a student is required by his/her physician to take prescribed or non-prescribed medication while in school, a parent or guardian of the student is expected to inform the nurse, in writing, that the student is required to take medication and describe the specific medication and dosage. A student taking medication during the school day must do so under the direct supervision of the school nurse.

3. Suspected Use of Drugs in School

In general, problems and suspected problems in the illicit use of drugs in school by students will be handled according to the policy for accidents and illness already in effect in Walpole.

- a. The student will immediately be referred to the building principal, or in his/her absence, the school nurse or some other designee.
- b. After speaking with the student, evaluating the symptoms, and consulting with the school nurse, the parents or guardian will be notified by the principal or his/her designee and requested to come to school.
- c. In extreme instances of physical distress, the principal may take immediate steps to secure medical aid, including hospitalization.
- d. If it is determined that the student, as a result of his/her disruptive behavior, is under the influence of illicit drugs, the student shall be immediately suspended from school and may face expulsion

4. Suspected Possession, Distribution, or Sale of Drugs on School Property

If a staff member observes a student with materials that appear to be drugs or narcotic substances:

- a. The student will be asked to give the materials to the building principal, school nurse, or other designee, since students are not permitted to carry such substances in school.
- b. The principal will ask the student to identify the substance.
- c. If the student declines to do so, or if the principal feels that further identification of the substance is needed, he/she will contact the student's parents/guardian to request his/her identification.
- d. Should the latter procedure still prove unsatisfactory, the principal will immediately call the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
- e. The principal will turn over any material evidence to the police.
- f. Any questioning of students by police will be done, if possible, in the presence of one or both parents or guardian(s) of the student being questioned.

5. Determination of Illicit Use

If illegal drugs or narcotics are identified through the above procedure:

- a. The principal will notify the Superintendent of Schools immediately (and later in writing), giving a full account of the situation and the name(s) of the student(s).
- b. The principal will notify the parents personally.
- c. The student shall receive an immediate ten (10) day out of school suspension and may face expulsion. The decision making process for re-admittance shall be based upon appropriate consultation with administrative, teaching, and support staff and other professional consultation when deemed advisable.
- d. The school will have the student(s) welfare as its main objective. To this end it will encourage the parents to undertake professional assistance on the outside and will work to maintain with the involved student(s) an effective and continuing program of school work.

6. Alcohol violations

Alcohol violations will result in:

- a. For a first offense, a mandatory ten (10) day suspension will be assigned, the first five (5) days will be served out of school, the last five (5) days will be an in-school suspension. A parent conference with an Assistant Principal will be required at the time of re-admittance.
- b. For a second and subsequent offense, a mandatory ten (10) day out of school suspension will be assigned. A parent conference with the Principal will be required at the time of re-admittance, as well as referral of the student to an approved alcohol counseling program.
- c. Any senior (grade 12) student who violates either our alcohol or drug policies at any of the culminating senior class events (e.g., prom, graduation rehearsals, senior dinner, awards programs, etc.), **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.**

7. Conviction for Drug Possession, Distribution, Sale or Use, Outside of School Property

In general, school disciplinary proceedings with regard to students found guilty of an alleged violation of drug laws while off school property should be considered only when the student's conduct disrupts the educational process or interferes with the rights of other persons in the school.

In concurrence with the M.G.L. c. 94C, § 32J, a conviction for selling drugs within 1,000 ft. of school property in Massachusetts will result in a minimum mandatory 2 year jail sentence plus a fine of up to \$10,000. This area around Walpole High School has been defined as Common Street in the areas of Clapp Street, Mass Avenue, Lake Avenue, Cascade Terrace, and Pocahontas Street, and the Town Forest behind the high school including the area behind the athletic field.

8. Due Process

Students must be guaranteed the rights of "due process under the law."

9. Drug Violations by Persons Who are Not Students at the School

Whenever the principal has information that persons who are not students of the Walpole Public Schools have sold or transferred drugs to any student(s), the principal shall immediately notify the local police department. School authorities shall cooperate fully with police officials in order to apprehend and prosecute such persons.