

RSU #16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)

Policy Code: *JICH* msm/kb

Adopted: *August 2004*

Revised: *April 2012; November 2014*

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & POSSESSION

In order to promote the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the physical, social and emotional well-being of students, this policy is designed to: aid students in abstaining from the unlawful use of alcohol and drugs; provide for early intervention when use is detected; and provide disciplinary action when necessary. Compliance with this policy is mandatory.

Any school staff member who has reason to suspect that a student has violated this policy is required to report the incident to an appropriate administrator immediately.

A. Prevention

RSU 16 will provide students with information and activities focused on abstaining from the use of alcohol and drugs. Such information and activities will address the legal, social and health consequences of alcohol and drug use and abuse and will provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use alcohol and illicit drugs. RSU 16 will work in partnership with students, parents and local law enforcement to eliminate these risks for all students.

B. Intervention

RSU 16 has a nurse to provide non-clinical chemical health assessments and a Student Services Team (nurse, guidance counselor, social worker, administrators) as well as a substance abuse counselor to assist students in addressing their harmful involvement with chemicals and in continuing their educational program. Information will be provided as appropriate about drug and/or alcohol counseling and treatment and programs that are available to students.

C. Prohibited Conduct, Definitions, Rules and Sanctions

Students are prohibited from consuming, possessing, furnishing, selling, receiving, buying, manufacturing, offering or being under the influence of prohibited substances **in all of the following circumstances:**

- Before, during and after school hours, at school, in any school building, on any school premises,
- In 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 an athletic event) where students are under the jurisdiction of the school unit,
- Or at any time or place if the conduct directly interferes with the operation, discipline or welfare of the schools.

While at school or during any school activity, **students are also prohibited from** offering or accepting to furnish, sell, receive or buy prohibited substances at a location off school premises.

Students are prohibited from wearing at school or school-related functions any article of clothing or product (such as T-shirts, hats, pins, etc..) that advertises, promotes, or references the use of prohibited substances.

Advertising of prohibited substances in school buildings, at school functions, on school owned property and in school publications is prohibited.

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

1. Alcohol;
2. Scheduled drugs (as defined in 17-A MRS § 1101);
3. Controlled substances (as defined in the federal Controlled Substance Act, 21 USC § 812);

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4. Prescription drugs not prescribed for the student and/or not in compliance with the Board's policy on administering medications to students (see Board Policy JLCD);
5. Any substance possessed or used for ingestion to produce an intoxicating effect (including but not limited to aerosols, paints, solvents and glue);
6. Steroids or any substance on the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' list of banned performance enhancing substances;
7. Paraphernalia -- implements used for distribution or consumption of a prohibited substance; or
8. Any look-alike drug or substance that is described as or is purported to be a prohibited substance defined in this section.

Any violation of the terms of this policy shall constitute sufficient grounds for student discipline, including suspension and/or expulsion from school, at the discretion of the administration and the Board. Appropriate law enforcement authority shall also be notified of violations of this policy.

This policy shall be disseminated to students and parents/guardians through means selected by the administration.

Legal References: 21 USC § 812 (Controlled Substance Act); 21 CFR Part 1300.11-15
20 USC § 7101 et seq. (Safe Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act)
17-A MRSA § 1101
42 USC § 290dd-2; 42 CFR 2.1 et seq.
20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9); 4008; 6621
22 MRSA § 1578-B
Me PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use by Minors)
20 USC § 6081 (Pro-Children Act of 2001)

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