

**File: JICHB - GRADES 9-12 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

The use, possession, and distribution or sale of drugs and alcoholic beverages is prohibited at all times anywhere on the campus or at school-sponsored activities on or off campus. Students and parents should be aware of the following procedures and penalties resulting from infractions:

**DRUGS AND ALCOHOL PROCEDURE:**

**I.** A drug is any substance, including alcohol, which affects a person in such a way as to bring about physiological, emotional, or behavioral change. It shall be the responsibility of all personnel employed in the Danvers Public Schools to report to the administrator responsible for the area every observable or suspected incident of drug abuse or selling of drugs. If the student is in possession of or is under the influence of a drug, he shall be escorted as tactfully as possible to the nearest administrative office. If the student is under the influence of a drug, the school nurse shall examine the student and the following action shall be taken:

If, in the nurse's judgment, a medical emergency exists, the student shall be transported to the nearest medical facility, and the parent or legal guardian shall be notified.

If the health problem is not a medical emergency, the parent(s) should be advised to take the student to the appropriate health care facility.

In any case of drug abuse, the parent/legal guardian shall be notified and the student shall be suspended for 10 days. After 10 days, the parent(s) and student will be required to attend a conference with the appropriate school official to determine if satisfactory measures have been taken to assure that the problem will not happen again.

Mandatory actions by school administrators, when a student is identified with drug/alcohol abuse include mandatory counseling, ongoing counseling if recommended by a therapist, referral to police for formal charges, and the student must provide the results of a toxicology drug screen. If all other options have been attempted and the student has not taken advantage of the help offered, or has not responded to it, the School Committee may move for his/her expulsion.

In all instances the student and parent shall have a right to a fair and impartial hearing. Whenever possible, confidentiality shall accompany all procedures.

**II.** A person shall be determined to be a distributor if (1) he/she is found to possess a quantity of substance (drugs) beyond what could be expected for personal use, or (2) there is evidence that an exchange or transfer of a substantial quantity of substance has taken place. For the protection of the school community, the administrator may conduct a search of person, locker, or property. The parent(s) of the student(s) involved and the police shall be notified immediately.

Regardless of what action is taken by the police, students will be suspended for 10 days with a recommendation to the superintendent for an additional 10 days. In all instances, the student and parent shall have a right to a fair and impartial hearing. Whenever possible, confidentiality shall accompany all procedures.

The student and parent/legal guardian shall be informed of alternatives to regular school enrollment.

**III. Possessing drug paraphernalia, as described in legal terms, will warrant a 5 day suspension. A repeat offense will warrant a 10 day suspension. Students will also be required to provide the results of a toxicology drug screen.**

**IV. Students who have violated the substance abuse policy by using or distributing for the second time will receive severe consequences. Expulsion hearings will be initiated upon the second offense of the substance abuse policy.**

V. When a self-identified or self-referred student seeks help from a school nurse or from a member of the professional staff, it would indicate (1) a desire to discontinue the use of drugs and (2) a willingness to work with a staff member of an agency in seeking a solution to the student's problem. If a medical emergency exists as determined by the school nurse, the student should be taken to the proper medical facility, and the parent or legal guardian should be notified.

When the student fits the criteria above, as long as school officials are satisfied that a student is not in violation of any other rule regarding drug possession, he/she will be guaranteed that disciplinary actions will not be initiated under other drug classifications. Unless the student's well-being is in jeopardy, the student's parent/legal guardian should not be contacted without the student's consent. The confidant, however, should encourage the student to notify his/her parents or legal guardian of the problem within a reasonable time.

Adopted August 13, 2001

SOURCE: Danvers