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RSU 54/MSAD 54 Student Substance Abuse Policy

The RSU 54/MSAD 54 School District recognizes that illegal drug, tobacco and alcohol use and abuse are harmful to the individual and too prevalent in today's society. It is the District's philosophy to educate students about the detrimental effects of alcohol and drug use and abuse and to deter the use and possession of alcohol and drugs. The purpose of this policy is to outline and define consequences for students who violate Board policies and school rules concerning alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

I. PROHIBITED CONDUCT, SUBSTANCES

Students, staff, parents, and visitors (refer to policy GBEC) are prohibited from consuming, possessing, furnishing, selling, receiving, buying, manufacturing or being under the influence of prohibited substances 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 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.

RSU 54/MSAD 54 prohibits pro-ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs) messaging and advertising in school buildings, at school functions, and in school publications. This includes prohibiting ATOD advertising on clothes such as t-shirts or hats, worn to school or school sponsored activities.

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

1. ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs)
2. Scheduled drugs (as defined in 17-A M.R.S.A. § 1101);
3. Controlled substances (as defined in the federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC §812);
4. Any performance-enhancing substance listed on the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' banned substances list and any other substance which is illegal in Maine or the use of which is illegal for minors;
5. Prescription drugs not prescribed for the student and/or not in compliance with the Board's policy on administering medications to students. (Refer to the attached Medication Policy)
6. Any substance which can affect or change a student's mental, physical or behavior pattern, including but not limited to volatile materials such as glue, paint or aerosols (when possessed for the purpose of inhalation) or steroids;
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.
9. Marijuana in any form is a violation of federal law. Maine law prohibits possession of medical marijuana on school grounds and school buses.
10. Smoking of tobacco or other substances and use of all tobacco products including non-FDA approved nicotine delivering devices, such as electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, hookahs, or any look-alike device that the administration deems inappropriate will not be permitted anywhere and anytime.

II. CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of the terms of this policy include sufficient grounds for student discipline, including suspension or expulsion from school, at the appropriate discretion of the administration and the Board. Law enforcement authorities shall also be notified of violations of this policy. Because participation in athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege, students who participate in athletics or co-curricular activities and who violate this policy are subject to additional rules and sanctions. (See Section III)

The school procedures that follow are intended as guidelines. The administration reserves the discretion to impose consequences for any violation of this policy up to and including a recommendation for expulsion. The offenses and subsequent disciplinary procedures described in this policy shall be cumulative throughout the student's years in the RSU 54/MSAD 54 School District.

After receiving a written or oral report involving possible student possession, use or sharing of a prohibited substance, the administrator shall take the following steps:

First Offense

1. Verify and/or confiscate substance
2. Notification of parents/guardians, police, and central office administration
3. Meet with student to discuss participation in an approved diversion program
4. Suspension of the student for up to 10 days
(Reduced if student agrees to complete an approved diversion program)

Any Subsequent Offenses

1. Verify and/or confiscate substance
2. Notification of parents/guardians, police, and central office administration
3. Meet with student to discuss participation in an approved diversion program
4. Suspension of the student for up to 10 days, with appearance before the Superintendent to discuss the student's educational future and possible expulsion

IIB. FURNISHING, SELLING, OR MANUFACTURING A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE

Violations will result in the following consequences:

After receiving a written or oral report involving possible student possession, use or sharing of a prohibited substance, the administrator shall take the following steps:

First Offense or Subsequent Offense

1. Verify and/or confiscate substance
2. Notification of parents/guardians, police, and central office administration
3. Suspension of student from school pending administrative review. An expulsion hearing is possible if furnishing, selling, manufacturing, or transfer of the prohibited substance has occurred on school property, in school vehicles, under school supervision, or at any activity sponsored by the RSU 54/MSAD 54 School District.

III. PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The RSU 54/MSAD 54 School District realizes the value of athletic and co-curricular participation as a positive alternative to substance use. It is, therefore, the policy of the District that students participating in all athletic teams and extra-curricular activities sign and abide by rules, which prohibit violations of the Board's substance abuse policy (see sections I and II) at any time or place during the season*.

* The season is defined as that period of time from the first team or organization/club meeting/practice to the last meeting or organization banquet when awards are presented.

- A. Students may not possess, use, be under the influence of, buy, or furnish to others the following substances: alcohol, tobacco (all forms), e-cigarettes, hookas, vaporizers, medical marijuana, prohibited substances, look-a-like drugs or devices, and prescription drugs.
- B. Violation of rule A during the student's high school career shall result in the following consequences:

First Offense

1. Meeting with the assigned administrator/s and student to verify incident.
2. Inform parent or guardian of the incident.
3. Suspend student from athletics/co-curricular activities for 20% of the season.
 - During the out of school administrative suspension, no participation in all practices, contests, and team functions.
 - For athletes, the 20 % suspension will be defined as 20% of Maine Principals' Association (M.P.A.) countable games. Students will not be allowed to participate in pre-season scrimmages or other MPA non-countable games such as holiday tournaments. Athletes will be required to practice and travel with the team during this suspension but shall be out of uniform. This suspension will begin immediately after the ineligibility is determined.
 - For co-curricular participants, the 20% suspension will be defined/interpreted by administration based on the time that the co-curricular activity meets. During this time, the student will attend meetings/activities but will not be able to participate/perform.
4. Require the student participate in an approved diversion program. Failure to comply with the required diversion program will result in further suspension from all athletics and co-curricular activities until successful completion. The student cannot earn a symbolic award in the season for which the suspension occurs.

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5. The season ending banquet will be considered a countable event for serving the 20% suspension.
6. If all conditions are satisfactorily met, the student may return to his/her athletic and/or co-curricular participation on the day following the suspension.
7. If the suspension occurs at the end of the season, the student will need to fulfill the above requirements before being allowed to participate in another athletic and/or co-curricular season (balance of countable games will be applied to his/her next season and/or activity). However, a student will be allowed to tryout for the next activity.

Second Offense (This is cumulative throughout the high school career)

1. Meeting with the assigned administrator/s and student to verify incident.
2. Inform parent or guardian of the incident.
3. Suspend student from athletics/co-curricular activities for 50% of the season.
 - During the out of school administrative suspension, no participation in all practices, contests, and team functions.
 - For athletes, the 50% suspension will be defined as 50% of Maine Principals' Association (M.P.A.) countable games. Students will not be allowed to participate in pre-season scrimmages or other MPA non-countable games such as holiday tournaments. Athletes will be required to practice and travel with the team during this suspension but shall be out of uniform. This suspension will begin immediately after the ineligibility is determined.
 - For co-curricular participants, the 50% suspension will be defined/interpreted by administration based on the time that the co-curricular activity meets. During this time, the student will attend meetings/activities but will not be able to participate/perform.
4. It will be the responsibility of the student and his or her legal guardian/guardians to obtain an evaluation from a licensed substance abuse counselor. Based in part of the counselor's evaluation, the school will determine whether or not the student will be able to return to his/her athletic or co-curricular participation. The student will be suspended from all athletic and/or co-curricular activities for one calendar year from date of offense unless the student and a legal guardian/s agree to an evaluation from a licensed substance abuse counselor.
5. The student cannot earn a symbolic award in the season for which the suspension occurs.
6. The season ending banquet will be considered a countable event for serving the 50% suspension.
7. If the suspension occurs at the end of the season, the student will need to fulfill the above requirements before being allowed to participate in another athletic and/or co-curricular season (balance of countable games will be applied to his/her next season and/or activity). However, a student will be allowed to try out for the next activity.
8. If a second offense occurs in the same calendar year, that student will be suspended for one calendar year. Proof of evaluation/treatment must be provided in order to be considered to return to athletic and/or co-curricular participation.

Third Offense (This is cumulative throughout the high school career)

1. Meeting with assigned administrator/s to verify incident.
2. Inform parent or guardian of the incident.
3. Suspension of student from athletics and co-curricular activities for one calendar year from date of offense.
4. It will be the responsibility of the student and his or her legal guardian/guardians to obtain an evaluation from a licensed substance abuse counselor. Based in part on the counselor's evaluation, the school will determine whether or not the student will be able to return to his/her athletic or co-curricular participation after serving the year long suspension.

IV. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

RSU 54/MSAD 54 shall distribute this policy and appropriate related info to staff, students, and parents on an annual basis through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators. Tobacco and/or drug-free signage will be posted at all entrances of school building, school playgrounds, and athletic fields. Announcements of our tobacco and drug free campus will be made at the beginning of outdoor events.

MEDICATION POLICY (See Student Health Services and Requirements, JLC)

Medications will be given at school only when it is absolutely necessary. If at all possible, we encourage medications to be given at home. For example, if a medication is to be given three times per day, please give before school, directly after school, and at bedtime.

1. Medication is only to be given by school personnel with written permission from the parent and a written order from a licensed physician. A medication should always be in a properly labeled bottle to include student's name, name of drug and dosage. No other medication will be accepted in any other container but the original prescription bottle. This policy applies to all prescription and over the counter medications.
2. The school will provide no medication.
3. At no time shall a student have medication in his/her possession in school unless the physician states an inhaler or EPI pen needs to be with the student at all times.

Leg. References: 21 U.S.C. Section 812 (Controlled Substances Act); 21 CFR Part 1300.11-15 20 U.S.C. Section 7101 et seq. (Safe Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act) (smoking statute)
20 U.S.C. Section 608 (Pro-Children Act of 2001)
42 U.S.C 290dd-2; 42 CFR 2.1 et seq.
20-A MRSA Section 1001(9); 4008; 6621 et seq.
Title 17-A MRSA, Section 1101 (smoking statute)

Cross References:

GBEC: Chemical Abuse and Dependency (Employees and Visitors)
JKD: Student Suspension
JKE: Expulsion
JJI: SAHS Philosophy-Athletic Code and Contract
JLC: Student Health Services and Requirements

RSU 54/MSAD 54 Co-Curricular Student/Parent Pledge

Extra-Curricular Activity: _____

I, the undersigned have read and understand fully the RSU 54/MSAD 54 Student Substance Abuse Policy and agree to abide by it. I have also read and understand fully any other rules and policies related to this co-curricular activity and agree to abide by them.

Participant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

I, as a parent of _____, have read and understand fully the RSU 54/MSAD 54 Student Substance Abuse Policy. I have also read any other related rules and policies, and support my son or daughter's participation under these conditions. I will do my part in seeing that he/she follows these rules and regulations.

Parent's or Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____