

6.26 ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE BY STUDENTS (DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS)

Philosophy Statement

The Franklin Local School District recognizes its responsibilities to provide all students with an environment conducive to learning. The presence of alcohol and other drugs in the schools or students with alcohol and other drug problems is a deterrent to learning, thereby limiting, interfering with, or inhibiting the primary responsibility vested in the educational system.

The Franklin Local Board of Education recognizes student alcohol and other drug use as wrong and harmful. Student alcohol and other drug use is a community problem requiring a community solution. Since the school district is an integral part of the community, it is in the best interest of the community that steps be taken to promote, enhance, and maintain a drug-free school environment. The District also recognizes that alcohol and other drug use may lead to addiction, a treatable medical disease. In response, it is the policy to provide discipline as well as positive action to address alcohol and other drug use and/or dependency.

In developing this policy, the Board has tried to maintain a balance between compassion and aid to the students suffering from alcohol and other drug use, and the protection of the academic environment of students who wish to learn. It is recognized that the rights of students who do not use alcohol and other drugs must be protected. They should not have to be exposed to the possibility of being involved in illegal activities. The Board recognizes that the rights of administrators and teachers to perform their duties must be protected. They must take their place as educators and not perform the duties of police or a diagnostician. Additionally, it is important to recognize that the school district is not a treatment program. Diagnosis, treatment, and aftercare are complex processes that require trained specialists. Instead, the goals of the District are education/prevention, intervention/referral, and support/guidance.

The Board of Education is responsible for establishing a policy and directing its implementation. It carries these duties out through the District administrators and Drug-Free Schools Program Coordinator's Office. The Board calls upon the administrators, faculty, staff, parents and students to collectively ensure the policy's success.

Policy Statement

The Board shall not permit any student to possess, transmit, conceal, consume, show evidence of having consumed, use, offer for sale, or buy any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, unprescribed drugs, look-alike drugs or any mind-altering substance

while on school grounds or facilities; at school-sponsored events; in other situations under the authority of the District; or in controlled vehicles. Included in this prohibition are any substances represented as a controlled substance, nonalcoholic beers, steroids, tobacco, tobacco products, and drug paraphernalia.

Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as described within the Student Code of Conduct up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution. A reduction in penalty may be granted if the student receives professional assistance. Professional assistance may include but not be limited to an alcohol/drug education program; assessment with follow-through based on the assessment findings; counseling; outpatient treatment; or inpatient treatment. Students who need to take prescription or nonprescription medications must adhere to the policies of the Board of Education.

For purposes of this policy, “drugs” shall mean:

- A. All dangerous controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by state and/or federal law or regulation;
- B. All chemicals which release toxic vapors;
- C. All alcoholic beverages;
- D. Any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy;
- E. Anabolic steroids;
- F. Any substance that is a “look-alike” to any of the above; and
- G. Tobacco in any form.

Education/Prevention

The District will take a comprehensive, progressive, age-appropriate approach in the development of curricula and programs which promote positive life skills development and an awareness of the consequences associated with alcohol and other drug use. The guidelines, goals, and objectives for prevention/education development will be based on information provided through the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Prevention and Education Resource Center.

Additionally, opportunities for continued alcohol and other drug use prevention and intervention, staff training, and awareness will be made available in order to enhance the consistent implementation and success of this policy.

Intervention/Referral

It shall be the policy of the Franklin Local Schools to provide an intervention process designed to confront problem behaviors within students which may indicate alcohol and other drug use. Intervention strategies will reflect a collaboration of staff, administrators, guidance, and the Drug-Free Schools Program Coordinator. Intervention strategies will be initiated but not limited to the following circumstances:

- A. Students seeking help;
- B. Students exhibiting inappropriate, unusual or atypical behavior; and
- C. Disciplinary action involving violations of this policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

A working relationship should exist among the District and local professional agencies in order to enhance familiarity, communication, referral, and follow-up. Students successfully completing an inpatient treatment program will not be penalized for days missed from school. Students will be recognized as absent due to medical reasons. Every effort will be made by the Franklin Local Schools to maintain contact with the treatment agency and provide academic instructional materials. Additionally, every effort will be made by the District to assure that students successfully transition back into the school environment.

Support/Guidance

The Franklin Local Schools recognize the importance of guidance activities, which provide support to students who are experiencing problems either directly or indirectly due to alcohol and other drug use. Therefore, programs such as individual guidance, support groups, and mentorship programs may be utilized as a means of providing support and guidance to students within the school environment. Such activities may also be provided which promote drug-free lifestyles and support for students who are concerned in regard to a loved one's alcohol or other drug use.

Parent/Community

Parent involvement must coincide with school efforts in order for significant and consistent positive impact in regard to student alcohol and other drug use. Therefore, through the community arm of the Drug-Free Schools Program and guidance plan, parent education programs may be made available to the community. These programs will focus on parental prevention and intervention strategies.

Other Policies Governing Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use

The Franklin Local Board of Education has adopted a comprehensive code of conduct policy for students involved in curricular and extracurricular activities. Students and parents should be aware of the requirements of this policy, which governs student behavior both within the school environment and the community. This policy represents a common philosophy regarding alcohol and other drug use and is administered in a similar fashion.

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Franklin Local Drug-Free Schools Program

The Franklin Local Schools may employ a Drug-Free Schools Program Coordinator. This position provides the District with assurance of policy development and implementation as well as comprehensive program planning and services to meet the concerns of students, parents, community, and faculty. The Drug-Free Schools Program Coordinator reports directly to the principal and is responsible for districtwide prevention and intervention strategies. These strategies are implemented within the following four areas:

- A. Intervention and support programs and activities;
- B. Curriculum and resource development;
- C. Student involvement programs and activities; and
- D. Community awareness and advocacy

Anabolic Steroids

The Superintendent or designee shall conspicuously post the following warning in the locker rooms of each of the District's buildings that includes any grade higher than sixth grade:

“Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility,

personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment.”