

## **New Century School Policy No. 417**

Adopted: 5.30.16

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

### **417: CHEMICAL USE AND ABUSE**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to assist the school in its goal to prevent chemical use and abuse by providing procedures for education and intervention.

#### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. Use of controlled substances, toxic substances, and alcohol is prohibited in the school setting in accordance with school policies with respect to a Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
- B. It is the policy of this school to provide an instructional program in the school to educate students about the dangers of chemical abuse, and the prevention of chemical dependency.
- C. The school shall establish procedures for assessing or referring suspected abuse problems. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
- D. The school shall establish and maintain a program to educate and assist employees, students and others in understanding this policy and the goals of achieving drug-free schools and workplaces.

#### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Chemical abuse" means use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, without compelling medical reason, in a manner that induces mental, emotional, or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional or socially disordering behavior, to the extent that the student's normal function in academic, school, or social activities is chronically impaired.
- B. "Chemicals" includes but is not limited to alcohol, toxic substances, and controlled substances as defined in the school's Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School policy.
- C. "School location" includes any school building or on any school premises; on 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

; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the school or otherwise engaged in school business.

#### IV. STUDENTS

##### A. Instruction

- a. The school shall develop an instructional program on the dangers of chemical abuse, and the prevention of chemical dependency. The school may involve parents, students, health care professionals, state department staff, and members of the community in developing the curriculum.
- b. The school shall have age-appropriate and developmentally based activities that:
  - i. address the consequences of the illegal use of drugs, as appropriate;
  - ii. promote a sense of individual responsibility;
  - iii. teach students that most people do not illegally use drugs;
  - iv. teach students to recognize social and peer pressure to use drugs illegally and the skills for resisting illegal drug use;
  - v. teach students about the dangers of emerging drugs; and
  - vi. engage students in the learning process.
- c. The school shall have drug and violence prevention activities that may include the following:
  - i. Conflict resolution programs, including peer mediation.
  - ii. Counseling, mentoring, referral services, and other student assistance practices and programs.
  - iii. Programs that encourage students to seek advice from, and to confide in, a trusted adult regarding concerns about violence and illegal drug use.

##### B. Reports of Chemical Use and Abuse

- a. In the event that a school employee knows that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing or selling chemicals in a school location:
  - i. The employee shall immediately either take the student to an administrator or notify an appropriate administrator of the observation and continue to observe the student until the administrator arrives.
  - ii. The administrator will notify the student's parents and/or outside medical personnel as appropriate.
  - iii. The administrator will notify law enforcement officials, as necessary.
  - iv. The administrator and/or law enforcement officials will confiscate the chemicals and may conduct a search of the student's person, effects, locker, vehicle, or areas within the student's control.
  - v. The school will take appropriate disciplinary action in compliance with the student discipline code. Such discipline may include immediate suspension, initiation of expulsion proceedings, and/or referral to a detoxification center or medical center.

- b. If a school employee has reason to believe that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing or selling chemicals:
  - i. The employee shall notify the building administrator. The building administrator and/or team will determine what action should be taken. Action may include conducting an investigation, gathering data, scheduling a conference with the student or parents, or providing a meeting between a single member of the team and the student to discuss the behaviors that have been reported and attempting to ascertain facts regarding chemical abuse.
  - ii. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution or sale of chemicals shall be suspended in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §121A.40-121A.56, and proposed for expulsion.

C. Data Practices

- a. Student data may be disclosed without consent in health and safety emergencies pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.32 and applicable federal law and regulations.

V. EMPLOYEES

- A. The Director shall undertake and maintain a drug-free awareness and prevention program to inform employees, students and others about:
  - a. The dangers and health risks of chemical abuse in the workplace/school.
  - b. The school's drug-free workplace/drug-free school policy.
  - c. Any available drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, reentry and/or assistance programs available to employees and/or students.
- B. The Director shall notify any federal granting agency, that is required to be notified under the Drug-Free Workplace Act, within ten (10) days after receiving notice of a conviction of an employee for a criminal drug statute violation occurring in the workplace. To facilitate the giving of such notice, any employee aware of such a conviction shall report the same to the Director.