

Foster-Glocester Regional School District N. Scituate, RI

Substance Abuse Policy

Philosophy:

Foster-Glocester Regional School District recognizes that inappropriate use/abuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances by students has a damaging effect on the normal development, well-being and academic performance of students. School buildings, external school facilities, and school sponsored events should be free from alcohol, and other substances so students have learning environments that supports the academic, personal, and social development.

Intent:

The intent of this policy is to ensure the highest possible standard of education, as well as the safety, health, and well-being of students and to provide guidance to building administrators for responding to violations of the substance abuse policy and Administrative Directive 5131.1AD

Immunity from Liability:

Any person participating in good faith in making a report regarding substance abuse shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. Any such participant shall have the same immunity with respect to participation in any judicial proceedings resulting from such report. Teachers and staff have a duty to report substance abuse to the appropriate personnel.

Confidentiality:

Whenever a student seeks help from the administration or faculty for substance abuse, the student will be assured confidentiality and assistance to the extent permitted by law.

Prevention:

The prevention program will focus on classroom instruction, guidance and counseling services, and a supportive community environment. Since consumption of alcohol, drugs and other abusable substances is not exclusively a school-related problem, the program provides for a partnership among the schools, parents and community resources to ensure the success of the district prevention activities.

Intervention and Discipline:

The intervention and discipline component of this policy has been developed with an overall objective of requiring therapeutic intervention when a student is found to be involved with drugs. It is believed that drug and alcohol treatment professionals, and not school personnel, should evaluate the seriousness of the problem and make recommendations to treat it. Suspensions for drug-related offenses are to be cumulative and, therefore, be carried over from one school year to the next school year. The possibility of an overdose is much too real to allow students to violate the drug policy only on a yearly basis.

This language should be added to the student handbook after the statement: “Offending students will be dealt with firmly and swiftly within the guidelines of their due process rights.”

Possession, Use, and/or Under the Influence of an Illegal Substance

Students under the influence and/or in possession of illegal substances shall be dealt with as follows:

Students in school, on school grounds or at any school sponsored event and under the influence, ***but not in possession of illegal substances***, will be suspended for one (1) to ten (10) days and lose all social and/or senior privileges including parking permit (if applicable) for three (3) months;

The police department and parents will be notified and the student must be removed from school grounds by the police (medical personnel if the situation warrants) or by a parent or guardian if the police are not available. The student and a parent/guardian must attend a reinstatement meeting with the Principal or designee at which time the student will also be referred to the Student Assistance Counselor for in-school counseling;

A **second offense** will result in at least a three (3) day suspension, loss of social and/or senior privileges including parking permit (if applicable) for the remainder of the school year or at least three months cumulative, a parent reinstatement meeting and a review of the student’s progress with the Student Assistance Counselor.

Possession of an Illegal Substance

Students ***in possession of illegal substances*** in school buildings, on school grounds or at any school sponsored event will have those items confiscated. The police department, and the student’s parent or guardian, will be notified and the student must be removed from school grounds by the police (medical personnel if the situation warrants) or by a parent or guardian if the police are not available.

The student will be suspended for one (1) to ten (10) school days and lose all social and/or senior privileges and parking permit (if applicable) for the remainder of the school year. The Superintendent of Schools will be notified, and the student and a parent/guardian must attend a reinstatement meeting with the Principal or designee prior to returning to school at which time the student will also be referred to the Student Assistance Counselor for in-school counseling.

Failure to attend in-school substance abuse counseling will result in notification by the Student Assistance Counselor to the Principal or his/her designee and parent/guardian. Disciplinary consequences may include suspension and/or an exclusion hearing before the Superintendent or designee;

A **second offense** will result in at least a three (3) day suspension, loss of social and/or senior privileges including parking permit (if applicable) for the remainder of the school year or at least three months cumulative, a parent reinstatement meeting and a review of the student’s progress with the Student Assistance Counselor.

Distribution, Sale, or Intent of Sale of Illegal Substances or Falsely Presented Substances

Students *who attempt to sell or provide any illegal substances or falsely presented substances* in or on school grounds or at any school sponsored event, will be suspended for a minimum of five (5) school days All social and/or senior privileges will be terminated for the rest of the school year or at least 3 months cumulative, which may include the next school year, the police and a parent/guardian will be notified and the student must be removed from school grounds by the police (medical personnel if the situation warrants) or by a parent or guardian if the police are not available. The student and parent/guardian must also attend a reinstatement meeting with the Principal or designee at which time the student will also be referred to the Student Assistance Counselor for in-school counseling. The principal may recommend addition consequences.

Possession of Paraphernalia or Falsely Presented Substances

Students *who are in possession of any Paraphernalia or a Falsely Presented Substances* in or on school grounds or at any school sponsored event, will be suspended for one (1) to ten (10) school days All social and senior privileges may be terminated for up to 3 months. The police and a parent/guardian will be notified and the student may be removed from school grounds by the police (medical personnel if the situation warrants) or by a parent or guardian. The student will also be referred to the-Student Assistance Counselor for in-school counseling

A **second offense** will result in at least a three (3) day suspension, loss of social and/or senior privileges including parking permit (if applicable) for the remainder of the school year or at least three months cumulative, a parent reinstatement meeting and a review of the student’s progress with the Student Assistance Counselor.

Other Considerations Applying to the Policy Outlined Above

A **third offense** will result in at least a three (3) day suspension from school and a parent/student hearing to be scheduled with the Superintendent or Designee and/or School Committee for additional discipline and intervention.

In cases where students return to school, senior, parking and/or social privileges may be reinstated by the Administration after consultation with the Student Assistance Counselor. Compliance with in-school counseling, consistent attendance, behavior and grades will be factors when reinstating privileges.

In School Suspension (ISS) may be used as an alternative to Out of School Suspension (OSS) in order to meet the needs of the student.

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