

TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

ADOPTED: JULY 22, 2003

REVISED: MAY 16, 2006

227. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL	
1. Purpose	<p>The Board expresses its belief in the accompanying policy that alcohol and other drugs cannot be used responsibly by any minor. Furthermore, this philosophy must be of utmost importance in the development of guidelines and procedures required to implement this policy.</p> <p>The Board of the Tamaqua Area School District recognizes that chemical dependency, including drug and alcohol abuse, has become one of our major health problems. The Board is also aware that drug and alcohol abuse taking place in our schools and community is a threat to the health and welfare of the general population, especially our children and youth. The district recognizes that chemical dependency is a treatable health problem.</p> <p>Health problems of youth are primarily the responsibility of the home and community; however, schools share in that responsibility because chemical dependency problems interfere with appropriate school behavior, student learning, and the fullest possible development of each student. This district holds the position that students must be chemically free in order that they develop in the most productive and healthy manner.</p> <p>Furthermore, the school district will work through curriculum and classroom activity, administrative and faculty effort, and disciplinary procedures to prevent and intervene in the abuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school population.</p>
2. Authority	<p>The Board identifies that school personnel be held responsible to report all incidences involving alcohol and drugs.</p>
3. Definition	<p>Alcohol or other drugs, narcotics or other health endangering compounds includes but is not limited to alcohol, alcohol beverages, tranquilizers, amphetamines, synthetic opiates, marijuana, LSD and other hallucinogens, and glue solvent-containing substances. A more specific and comprehensive list would include all substances identified in the following laws:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act 1971 (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania).

<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (Federal Law). 3. The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act of April 14, 1972 (P. L. 233, No. 64) and Amendments. <p>All personnel of the district are to report to their immediate supervisor any student or employee unquestionably involved in the use, transfer of, or having alcohol or other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia in their possession while on or about the school property or while on a school function.</p> <p>All personnel of the district are to report to their immediate supervisor any person who is not a student or employee and who is found to be using, soliciting, or giving a student or employee any alcohol or other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia while on or about the school property or while on a school related function.</p> <p>The supervisor is to report such information to the Superintendent immediately and confirm the same to the Superintendent as soon as possible in writing relating the specific sequence of events in each case.</p> <p>The supervisor or the Superintendent will immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency in any case involving persons not related to the district.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>The Board requires that a student who, while under the school's jurisdiction, is found to possess, be under the influence of, use or abuse alcohol or other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug or look-alikes, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia for the first time shall be subject to the following immediate actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents/Guardians shall be immediately contacted by the building administration and the student shall be sent home or removed from the school for medical attention if necessary. If the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the decision to get medical attention for the student or to isolate the student from other students shall be made by the school administration. 2. The police department having jurisdiction over the area in which the school is located shall be notified by the Superintendent or designee and the student shall be referred for appropriate action. 3. The student will initially be suspended for up to ten (10) days during which time an informal hearing will be scheduled.

4. Within the first three (3) days of the suspension, preferably the day after the occurrence, an informal hearing will be held with the student, his/her parents or guardian, local police department representative, the school administration, and any other person who, in the judgment of the administration, could make contributions to aid in determining a course of action. As a result of the meeting, the district shall do one (1) or more of the following:
 - a. Refer the student to district personnel for counseling. Appropriate staff members may constitute one (1) or more of the following:
 - 1) Unit principal.
 - 2) School nurse.
 - 3) Student's guidance counselor.
 - 4) School psychologist.
 - 5) Other appropriately trained staff members selected by the principal.
 - b. Recommend the student, under parental supervision, obtain assessment from an outside professional resource. Confirmation of such contact shall be required to be submitted within a prescribed time to the school administration. Failure to comply within a prescribed time will be cause for additional days of this suspension to be required. The quantity of these required suspensions will be at the discretion of the principal.
 - c. Full suspension for up to ten (10) school days.
 - d. Referral to the district hearing committee for an expulsion hearing.
 - e. Any other action determined appropriate by the situation.

The Board requires that a student who, while under the school's jurisdiction, is found to possess, be under the influence of, use or abuse alcohol or other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia for the second time, or a student, who while under the school's jurisdiction is found to transfer or intend to transfer alcohol or any other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug or look-alikes, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia for the first time shall be subject to the following immediate action:

1. Parents/Guardians shall be immediately contacted by the building administration and the student shall be sent home or removed from the school for medical attention, if necessary. If the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the decision to get medical attention for the student or to isolate the student from other students shall be made by the school administration.

2. The police department having jurisdiction over the area in which the school is located shall be notified by the Superintendent or designee and the student shall be referred for appropriate action. A strong recommendation that the student be prosecuted will accompany this referral.
3. The student will initially be suspended for up to ten (10) days during which time an informal hearing will be scheduled.
4. Within the first three (3) days of the suspension, preferably the day after the occurrence, an informal hearing will be held with the student, his/her parents or guardian, local police department representative, the school administration, and any other person who, in the judgment of the administration, could make contributions to aid in determining a course of action. As a result of the meeting, the district shall do one (1) or more of the following:
 - a. Student will be expelled.
 - b. Refer the student to district personnel for counseling. Appropriate staff members may constitute one (1) or more of the following:
 - 1) Unit principal.
 - 2) School nurse.
 - 3) Student's guidance counselor.
 - 4) School psychologist.
 - 5) Other appropriately trained staff members selected by the principal.
 - c. Recommend the student, under parental supervision, obtain guidance or psychological counseling from an outside professional resource. Confirmation of such contact is required to be submitted within a prescribed time to the school administration. Failure to comply within a prescribed time will be cause for additional days of this suspension to be required. The quantity of these required suspensions will be at the discretion of the principal.
 - d. Any other action determined appropriate by the situation.

The Board requires that a grade 6-12 student who, while under the school's jurisdiction, is found in possession of, is found to transfer, or intends to transfer "look alike drugs" shall be subject to conditions outlined in this policy.

A K-5 student who is found to repeatedly transfer or repeatedly intends to transfer "look alike drugs" shall be subject to conditions outlined in this policy.

<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.14 Pol. 226</p>	<p>Look-alike drugs are any substances manufactured or designed to resemble drugs, narcotics or other health endangering compounds included in this policy.</p> <p>The Board identifies the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All students and staff members of the district shall report to the principal any person suspected of soliciting, giving, or using alcohol or other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia, while on or about the school property or while on school related functions.2. Persons who have been in a position to make such a report and have failed to do so shall be subject to disciplinary action when reasonable evidence is presented indicating that such a person has ignored the responsibility.3. School administrative personnel shall have the authority to require students or other persons under the administrator's jurisdiction to submit to a thorough search of clothing, desks, handbags, wallets, and lockers to take possession of any unauthorized materials suspected of being in their possession. If a more intrusive body search of the student is indicated, an attempt shall be made to contact parents for their consent or attendance at the search. Such searches shall be conducted with an appropriate witness, which may be the parent or a staff member, and must not be conducted without reasonable suspicion. Body searches will be made by persons of the same sex.4. Students who refuse to submit to a reasonable cause search as outlined in this policy shall be immediately suspended from school and referred to the Superintendent's office for disposition, which shall include any of the enumerated designations in this policy.5. Persons found to possess, use, abuse, or transfer alcohol or other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia are to be promptly subjected to the steps outlined in this policy.6. Persons who, after submitting to a search, are found not to be in possession of alcohol or other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia are to be promptly excused and no further action is to be taken. A report of the incident shall be filed with the immediate supervisor for future reference, but shall not be retained for a period of more than one (1) year from the date of the report if no similar instances are reported.
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The Board requires that students who bring medicine in the school must follow procedures identified in the student/parent handbook or individual building policies.

The Board recognizes that a student who voluntarily comes, or is referred, to the principal seeking help and not under the immediate influence of, or transferring, or in the possession of alcohol or other drugs, narcotics, or substances believed by the student to be a drug, other health endangering compounds, or drug paraphernalia within the school, is not subject to the provisions of this policy, but will be provided with all appropriate help as defined in this policy.