

Student Alcohol and Drug Use Situations and Responses

Situation One

Student volunteers information about his own alcohol or drug use or seeks help.

Immediate Action

A staff member may report such an incident to or request advice from the school counselor or nurse, or another staff member trained in alcohol and drug resources. The student should be fully informed of services that are available, his rights to receive the service and of the confidentiality to which he is entitled. The student should be encouraged to seek such help. Any staff member involved in this circumstance is obligated to guard the confidentiality of the student.

Notification of Parent/Guardians

Notification of parent/guardian is not required. Parent/guardian involvement should be the discretion of the student unless there appears any danger to students or others.

Discipline

There is no need for disciplinary action in this situation.

Notification of Police

Involvement of law enforcement is not warranted in this situation.

Comment:

All staff should be informed about their rights and responsibilities in this situation. Too often, fear of liability prevents a staff member from becoming involved. Accurate information and referral procedures should be provided to all staff members.

Situation Two

Student expresses concern about possible use/abuse of alcohol or drugs by an unnamed “friend.”

Immediate Action

Any response must be made in consideration of the indirect source of the information. Such a student should be encouraged to relay information about help and student rights to the student with the problem.

Notification of Parent/Guardian

Notification of parent/guardian is not required. Such information will generally be maintained on a one-to-one basis, although the school counselor, nurse, or staff member trained in alcohol and drug resources may be contacted.

Discipline

There is no need for disciplinary action in this situation.

Notification of Police

Involvement of law enforcement is not warranted in this situation.

Intervention

The student who contacts a staff member should be encouraged to persuade the student with the problem to contact someone who can help.

Comment:

It must be remembered that a student who discusses a “friend” may be looking for help himself. Staff should be aware of this possibility and the likelihood that they are being tested as a source of help. A positive approach is important. A familiarity with appropriate responses will be helpful.

Situation Three

Student expresses concern about possible use/abuse of alcohol or drugs by another student and provides the student’s name for the purpose of getting help for him.

Immediate Action

The staff person should encourage the student who contacted him to try and persuade the named student to contact the staff member directly, or to contact a staff member designated as trained in alcohol and drug resources.

If the named student initiates contact with a staff member concerning his own alcohol or drug use, the staff member contacted should follow procedures outlined in situations No. 1.

Notification of Parent/Guardian

Notification of parent/guardian is not required. Parent/guardian involvement should be at the discretion of the student unless there appears any danger to students or others.

Discipline

There is no need for disciplinary action in this situation.

Notification of Police

Involvement of law enforcement is not warranted in this situation.

Intervention

If the first student was unsuccessful at getting the named student to seek assistance directly the staff member should initiate the contact to discuss the concern and/or refer the student to a staff member trained in alcohol and drug resources. The student should be fully informed of services that are available, his right to receive the service, and of the confidentiality to which he is entitled. The student should be encouraged to seek such help. Any staff member involved in this circumstance is obligated to guard the confidentiality of the student.

Comment:

The confidentiality of information in this case is the responsibility of the staff member who has been contacted. No contact further than the school counselor, school nurse, or staff member trained in alcohol and drug resources should be made.

Situation Four

Student demonstrates some of the signs of possible alcohol or drug involvement (such as sudden drop in grades, change of friends, abrupt mood swings, etc.) but no evidence of immediate danger to self or others.

Immediate Action

The student should be encouraged to seek available assistance through the school counselor or another staff member trained in resources for youth. The staff member is obligated to respect the confidentiality rights of the student.

Notification of Parent/Guardian

Notification of parent/guardian about possible alcohol or drug use is not required in this situation. Parent/guardian involvement should be at the discretion of the student.

Discipline

Discipline is not warranted in this situation.

Notification of Police

Involvement of law enforcement is not warranted. Early intervention services for high risk youth may be appropriate in this situation.

Comment:

Although it is not always clear how far a school may go in this situation, these recommendations take into consideration the strong potential for misinterpretation of a student's behavior as actual drug use.

Situation Five

Student is impaired and drug or alcohol use is suspected.

Immediate Action

All standard health and first aid procedures will be followed. The school nurse, or staff member responsible for handling medical emergencies, should be summoned immediately. The student should not be left alone. If the student must be taken to a medical facility, he will be accompanied by a designee of the principal.

The student should be questioned about his drug or alcohol ingestion and an immediate effort should be made to ascertain the names of other students who may be exposed to drugs and/or alcohol and the location of any remaining quantities of these substances. A reasonable effort should be made to obtain the unused substances before they can be ingested by other students.

Notification of Parent/Guardian

Parent/guardian will immediately be notified of the incident as a health problem or medical emergency.

Notification will include a description of the situation and the symptoms; the parent/guardian will also be notified of the student's suspension in accordance with the Manchester City Schools zero tolerance policy (**See 6.309 Zero Tolerance Offenses**).

Disposition of Substances

Any drugs or alcohol discovered in an emergency situation should be turned over by the school principal or the principal's designee to medical personnel for identification and aid in the treatment of the emergency. In all other situations, alcohol or drugs and/or paraphernalia will be turned over to the police.

Discipline

Evidence of drug and/or alcohol ingestion at school or causing a student to be impaired at school is a violation of this Board's zero tolerance policy (**See 6.309 Zero Tolerance Offenses**). The student shall be disciplined under the procedures of this policy and the discipline procedures policy (**See 6.313 Discipline Procedures**).

Notification of Police

Tennessee law requires notification of police in any situation where there is evidence of the possession of drugs or alcohol in school (**See 6.307 Drug-Free Schools**). This reporting requirement includes submitting the name of the student to the police. In emergency situations, police will be notified that the drugs or alcohol were turned over to medical personnel.

Intervention

The school will recommend to the parent that the student be assessed to determine the extent of alcohol or drug involvement and the appropriate level of counseling or treatment needed.

Situation Six

Student possesses alcohol or drugs at school, on the way to and from school, or at a school sponsored event or activity including legend or prescription drugs which have not been prescribed for his personal use, or paraphernalia.

Immediate Action

The staff member who discovers the alcohol or drugs/paraphernalia will summons the principal, or designee, or escort the student to the principal's office. The student will be interrogated and the student's locker will be searched according to policy (**See 6.303 Interrogation and Searches**). The principal, or designee, will request that the student empty his/her pockets or purse and volunteer all alcohol or drugs/paraphernalia.

If the student refuses to cooperate, police may be called in to conduct a search.

Notification of Parent/Guardian

The parent/guardian will be contacted immediately, the situation described, and a conference arranged. The parent will be informed that the school is required by state law to report the incident to the police. The parent/guardian will also be notified of the student's suspension in accordance with the Manchester City Schools zero tolerance policy (**See 6.309 Zero Tolerance Offenses**). The parent/guardian will be required to transport the student from school to home. If the parent/guardian will not or cannot transport the student or cannot be reached, police will be notified to pick the student up at school.

Disposition of Substances

Substances will be sealed, documented and turned over to police with a request for analysis.

Discipline

Evidence of drug and/or alcohol possession at school, on the way to and from school, or at a school sponsored event or activity is a violation of this Board's zero tolerance policy (**See 6.309 Zero Tolerance Offenses**). The student shall be disciplined under the procedures of the zero tolerance policy and the discipline procedures policy (**See 6.313 Discipline Procedures**).

Notification of Police

Tennessee law requires notification of police in any situation where there is evidence of the possession of drugs or alcohol in school (**See 6.307 Drug-Free Schools**). This reporting requirement includes submitting the name of the student to the police.

Intervention

The school will recommend to the parent that the student be assessed to determine the extent of alcohol or drug involvement and the appropriate level of counseling or treatment needed.

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