

Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union Ludlow Elementary School District Mount Holly Elementary School District Plymouth School District Union #39 School District	ALCOHOL & DRUGS	Policy: F7
---	----------------------------	-------------------

Policy

It is the policy of the Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union, Ludlow Elementary School District, Mount Holly Elementary School District, Plymouth School District and Union #39 School District (hereinafter “District”), that no student shall knowingly possess, use, sell, give or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any illegal drug, regulated substance, inhalant or alcohol on any School District’s property, at any School District’s sponsored activity away from or within the school and/or vehicles used to transport students to and from school or school activities.

I. Definitions

A. Alcohol and Substance Abuse: Alcohol and Substance Abuse is the ingestion of a substance in such a way that it interferes with a person’s ability to perform physically, intellectually, emotionally, or socially.

B. Drug: Drug means any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, inhalant or any other controlled substance as defined by state or federal regulation or statute.

II. Implementation

The Superintendent (or designee) is responsible for implementing procedures to see that the following requirements are met:

A. Educational Program: The School District shall conduct an alcohol and drug abuse educational program on a sequential basis from early childhood through grade 6 in accordance with the mandates of 16 V.S.A. §909, the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Plan, and the Federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (20 U.S.C. §§1701 et seq.).

B. Cooperative Agreements: In dealing with substance abuse cases, every effort will be made to promote responsible decision-making by the student involved and other students who are aware of another student’s use or abuse. The focus will be to encourage appropriate medical and/or psychological intervention by trained professionals. The Principal shall annually designate a member of the substance abuse team.

1. The School District, under a cooperative agreement with HCRS has established a Student Assistance Program. Students, under the age of eighteen, who have been referred or who refer themselves to the Student Assistance Program counselor may be seen individually by the counselor for purposes of substance abuse screening and consultation. It will be the goal of the Student Assistance Program to encourage the student to involve his/her parents or guardians at the earliest point in time.

2. No student under the age of eighteen will be referred to an outside agency for substance abuse treatment without parental consent unless, in accord with 18 V.S.A. §4226, the student is 12 or over and found by a licensed physician to be dependent upon regulated drugs or an alcoholic.

3. Parental consent is not required for student participation in group programs conducted within the School District which are educational in nature and designed to impart information and/or assist students in improving their sense of self-esteem. Such groups may be conducted only by trained professionals contracted by the Districts to perform such service or by trained District staff who have been approved by the School District administration to conduct such groups.

C. Substance Abuse Team: In each school the Principal shall form a Substance Abuse Team which shall screen students who refer themselves and students who are referred by staff for suspected drug and/or alcohol use and/or abuse problems. The membership of the team and the procedures to be used by the team will be developed by the Principal and disseminated in writing to the building faculty and staff.

D. Staff Training: The District will provide staff with training such that teachers and health and guidance personnel can competently teach or provide other services required in the School District's alcohol and drug abuse prevention education program. Such training is outlined in State Board Rule 4213.2.

E. Community Involvement: The District will provide for a program to inform the community about substance abuse issues and about how District is handling such issues.

F. Annual Report: In a standard format provided by the Department of Education, the School District will submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Education describing substance abuse education programs and their effectiveness.

G. Notification: Parents and students will be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions contained in this policy and accompanying procedures, and will be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

Legal Reference(s): 20 U.S.C. §§1701 *et seq.* (Safe & Drug-Free Schools & Communities Act of 1994)
 16 V.S.A. §909 (Education curriculum)
 16 V.S.A. §1045 (Driver Training Course)
 16 V.S.A. §1165 (Alcohol and Drug abuse)
 18 V.S.A. §4226 (Drugs: minors, treatment, consent)
 Vt. State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices §§4200 -4215)

Cross Reference(s): Student Conduct and Discipline (F1)
 Search and Seizure (F3)
 Student Medication (F6)
 Interrogations or Searches of Students by Law Enforcement Officers or Other Non-School Personnel (F5)

District:	Reviewed only	Date Warned	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy
Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union		May 4, 2009	May 27, 2009	n/a
Ludlow Elementary School District		March 16, 2009	April 6, 2009	JI
Mount Holly School District		March 4, 2009	March 16, 2009	JH
Plymouth School District		April 17, 2009	May 4, 2009	JI
Union #39 School District		March 24, 2009	April 15, 2009	JI

III. Procedure

A. Procedures for Dealing with Substance Abuse Incidents: Students who are experiencing problems with alcohol and drugs are in need of assistance. The type of assistance needed may vary; however, the school system is committed to providing the most appropriate response to each individual. The actions set forth below will be considered routine procedures. In situations where extreme violations occur, the specific action may be waived by the administrator. Any action taken by waiver of these procedures will be explained in a written report to the Superintendent. All disciplinary measures taken in accordance with this policy will comply with due process requirements and, where appropriate, will be consistent with the rights of students with disabilities as reflected in the school's discipline policy. All consequences apply to the student's high school career. Anonymous accusations, including electronic images, will not be the sole determining factor in disciplining a student.

B. Students Who are Suspected of Being Under The Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs:

1. First Offense:

- a. A student may be treated as an ill student and will be sent home in the custody of parents or guardians or be referred to a hospital for evaluation by an administrator after the parents have been notified. In crisis situations the matter will be handled as a medical emergency and accordingly the school officials will involve ambulance and police assistance as may be appropriate.
- b. The student will be dealt with in accordance with the school's discipline program. A hearing will be held in accordance with the school's discipline program upon return to school. The student may not participate in any school sponsored activities until a hearing has been held.
- c. Police will be notified when drugs and/or alcohol are involved.
- d. The student will be referred to the school's Student Assistance Team. Any recommendation shall become administrative requirements for the student.
- e. The student will be suspended for 1-3 days.

2. Second Offense:

- a. Steps (a, b, c, & d) of the 1st offense procedures.
- b. The student will be referred to the Student Assistance Team. Any recommendation shall become an administrative requirement for the student.
- c. The student will be suspended for 3-6 days.
- d. Failure to comply with (b) above will result in the student being suspended from school for an additional five (5) days.

3. Third Offense:

- a. Step (a,b, & c) of the 1st offense procedures.
- b. The student will be suspended from school for ten (10) days and may be recommended to the Board for long-term suspension or expulsion.

C. Students In Possession of Drugs, Drug Paraphernalia, Inhalants and/or Alcohol:

When students are found in possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, inhalants and/or alcohol, the substance(s) will be removed from the student. Procedures for handling such incidents will be identical to those used when a student is found to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

D. Students Selling or Furnishing Alcohol and/or Drugs:

1. First offense:

- a. Parents will be notified.
- b. The student will be referred to the school's Substance Abuse Team.
- c. The student will be suspended from school for ten (10) days after the parents have been notified.
- d. Police shall be notified when a violation has occurred.

2. Second Offense:

- a. Steps (a), (b), (c) and (d) from 1st offense will be followed.
- b. The student may be recommended to the Board for long-term suspension or expulsion.

E. Suspected Substance Abuse: When a staff member has reason to believe that a student might be having a problem related to substance abuse, the staff member shall make a referral to the Substance Abuse Team. A student can self-refer without consequences prior to being suspected for drug/alcohol offense.

F. Co-Curricular Activities: Students who violate the School District's policy while they are members of a school team or club, are subject to additional disciplinary actions as are defined in the school's co-curricular handbook.