

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

The Westfield Public School System believes controlled substance use is a community issue, necessitating the commitment of a broad range of individuals, organizations, departments and the business sector to a collaborative effort at education, assistance and interdiction. Our district is committed to playing a significant role in meaningful endeavors to address substance abuse issues. The school system also believes that a student's involvement with drugs or alcohol constitutes a family, individual and school problem. Given that position, we commit our support and assistance to students and families whenever possible. We expect parents/guardians to cooperate with our efforts and, should a problem arise, act appropriately in a mutual effort to secure resolution that will ensure the well-being of the student.

The Westfield Public School System is dedicated to providing a drug and alcohol free educational environment. To that end:

1. The district will not tolerate any substance related offense in school building, on school grounds, on school transportation or at school related events. All legal means will be utilized, as appropriate, to identify and discipline offenders.
2. The district believes that prevention is a key to ensuring substance free attitudes and behaviors. Education therefore plays a critical role in establishing lifelong health habits for its students. Major goals of the district include a comprehensive K-12 curriculum emphasizing the effects and dangers of drug and alcohol use, annual parent awareness seminars, and periodic in-service training for staff in identifying symptoms and implementing district policies and procedures.
3. The district will attempt to assist students in accessing appropriate treatment as needed. The district will also encourage and support efforts within the community to provide healthy and legal alternatives to substance use.

Substance Related Offenses

Such behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Consuming or have consumed
- Under the influence of
- Use
- Possession
- Transfer
- Having domain over
- Sale
- Intent to sell
- Distribution
- Growing or manufacturing
- Misuse of prescription drugs or violation of the district's medication policy.
- Any violation of state or federal law relating to drugs or alcohol.

Adopted: June 3, 1996
(Replaces JFCH and JFCI)

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:1; 71:37H; 272:40A

RELATED POLICIES: JI – Student’s Rights and Responsibilities
JIA – Student Due Process Rights
JIC – Student Conduct
JICDA – Code of Conduct
JIH – Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests
JJIE – Drug and Steroid use in Student Athletics
JK – Student Discipline
JKD – Suspension of Students
JKE – Expulsion of Students
JLCD – Administering Medicine to Students

OTHER REFS: Student Handbooks