

Policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HORTONVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROFESSIONAL STAFF
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DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

The Board believes that quality education is not possible in an environment affected by the use of illegal drugs and alcohol as well as the abuse of prescription drugs. It will seek, therefore, to establish and maintain a drug-free workplace.

Prohibited Acts

The Board prohibits any member of the District's staff from any of the following at any time while on or in District property or while performing duties at a District-related activity or event:

- A. the manufacture, possession, use, distribution, or dispensing of any controlled substance or alcohol,
- B. using, distributing, or possessing drug paraphernalia; or
- C. unlawfully possessing, using, distributing, dispensing, or abusing a prescribed or over-the-counter medication.

Permitted Acts

Staff members who use or possess a prescription drug that has been lawfully prescribed to the staff member according to Wisconsin and Federal law and take the prescription in accordance with the prescribed dosage, shall not be deemed to be in violation of this policy. Staff members who use or possess over-the-counter medications and take them in accordance with the recommended dosage, shall not be deemed to be in violation of this policy. Wherever possible, a staff member should take prescribed and /or over-the-counter medications at home and not bring them to school. Where that cannot be accomplished, any staff member in possession of prescribed and /or over-the-counter medications while at school is responsible for taking appropriate precautions to assure that the drugs remain in the staff member's possession at all times and are taken only in private, out of view of students.

Each staff handbook will include a summary of the standards regarding unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by staff; furthermore, staff members shall be informed that compliance with this requirement is mandatory. The use of marijuana and/or products containing tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), other than products expressly excluded from the definition of a schedule drug (hemp-derived CBD oil, etc.), is still prohibited under Wisconsin law and Board policy. Use of such products even in states which have passed state laws permitting usage is still unlawful under Federal law and Wisconsin law and is not an exception to the drug-free workplace policy. CDC products are prohibited on District grounds and at school events.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Staff members shall be required to undergo alcohol and/or drug testing at any time the District has reasonable suspicion to believe the staff member may have violated this policy.

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Disciplinary Action

Any staff member who violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination from District employment in accordance with the Employee Handbook and District policies. In addition to disciplinary action, the District may, at its discretion, refer the staff member to drug and alcohol counseling or to employee assistance or rehabilitation programs and / or may refer the matter to law enforcement.

The District Administrator shall establish whatever programs and procedures are necessary to meet the Federal certification requirements under the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and shall provide these to staff. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the District Administrator from evaluating a staff member's fitness for duty pursuant to Policy #3161 – Unrequested Leaves of Absence / Fitness for Duty.

Off Work Conduct

Disciplinary action may result from conduct related to drug and alcohol usage even on the staff member's personal time if the circumstances create a connection to or nexus with the staff member's role with the District. Disciplinary action may result if a staff member's conduct involves the depiction of the staff member engaging in use of alcohol or drugs on social media or other outlets in a fashion that tends to provoke public scrutiny, damage the staff member's credibility, depict inappropriate involvement of minors, or in some fashion diminish the staff member's ability to safely and effectively perform his/her duties. If the District administration becomes aware of such circumstances, it will investigate the matter even though the events occurred on one's personal time and not on District property of at a District event.

Use of Resources for Treatment

The District makes available resources to assist staff members in overcoming substance abuse. However, the decision to seek diagnosis and accept treatment for substance abuse is primarily the individual staff member's responsibility. Any costs associated with treatment in excess of those costs covered by the staff member's medical insurance plan shall be borne by the individual.

Staff members with personal drug or controlled substance abuse problems should request assistance from the Business Office. Assistance will be provided on a confidential basis and each staff member will be referred to the appropriate treatment and counseling services.

The District will assist staff members to the extent feasible through the Employee Assistance Program, however, the Board cannot guarantee that the staff member's use of substances will not impact adversely the staff member's employment status through disciplinary procedures.

Legal Reference:

Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, 41 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.

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Board Approved 4/14/14; 10/24/16; 1/22/18; 6/22/2020; 7/2020; 3/14/2022
Adoption Resolution 10/13/14