

ALCOHOL, NICOTINE, AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE

Northwestern Area School District #56-7

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

The School Board and staff at Northwestern School recognize their share of responsibility for the health, welfare, and good of the students who attend the district's school. Alcohol, tobacco use, and other drug abuse are wrong/illegal and harmful and can interfere with a student's ability to learn and function responsibly in the school setting and community. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students, the Board adopted the following 4-pronged approach to address the issue of drug and alcohol use: prevention/treatment, education, intervention, and discipline.

A. Prohibited Conduct

A student shall not possess, use, distribute, transfer, conceal, sell, attempt to sell, deliver, not be under the influence of alcohol, nicotine, and/or other drugs. Students shall not engage in alcohol, nicotine and/or other drugs, nor do they possess paraphernalia specific to the use of alcohol, nicotine or other drugs. Students who use prescription drugs authorized by a licensed physician do not violate this policy if the students conform to the prescription and appropriate school policies.

This policy applies to all Northwestern School buildings and property owned, leased or maintained by the school 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and applies to all students, employees, and visitors. This includes all days when school is not in session and all school-related functions taking place on and off school grounds, such as athletic functions and other activities not associated with, or sponsored by, the school or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school. This policy also applies to vehicles used to transport students to and from school or other activities and vehicles parked on school property.

This policy prohibits tobacco, alcohol and other drug advertising on signs, clothing, or through sponsorship of school events, in school buildings, at school functions, and in school publications.

B. Enforcement

All individuals on school premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Policy enforcement is designed to educate students, staff, and others about the health risks associated with tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. Punitive measures, in accordance with district policy, will be used for repeat offenders.

Students. Students observed to be in violation of this policy shall be asked to refrain from the behavior. Repeated violations of this policy will be handled on a case-by-case basis by an authorized district official and may result in a directive to leave school property.

Employees. Any district employees found in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to district policy.

Visitors. Other adults observed to be in violation of this policy shall be asked to refrain from the behavior. Repeated violations of this policy will be handled on a case-by-case basis by an authorized district official and may result in a directive to leave school property.

C. Disciplinary Action

Definition of Activity

Activities that fall under the rules and guidelines set forth in this section are as follows: all athletic participation, FBLA, FCA, Oral Interp, Drama, Cheer, SADD, Student Council, school sponsored dances including homecoming and prom, co-curricular activities not part of the curriculum (marching band performance, music contests, etc.), and other school sponsored events and activities not associated with the curriculum. Items not included are: graduation ceremony, band and chorus concerts that are included in the curriculum, and field trips or other curriculum items. If a student does not participate in any extra-curricular activities, they will not be allowed to attend events as a spectator at home-school sponsored events until restitution and suspension have been completed.

Specific Violations and Penalties

A. First Violation

1. Penalty--after confirmation of the first violation, the student shall immediately lose eligibility for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and school sponsored dances for 12 days, including the 12th day, two events or 25% of the season, whichever is longer. This does not include practices.
2. The student shall carry out an educational program of five hours under the direction of the prevention coordinator and/or counselor. A student will not be allowed to participate in any activities during the current school year or following years until the required restitution is completed.
3. The student will be suspended for 1-3 days, which will be determined by administration.
4. The school will offer the parent/guardian information on an assessment for potential chemical abuse (excluding tobacco).
5. Administration will contact Law Enforcement

B. Second Violation

1. Penalty--after confirmation of the second violation, the student shall immediately lose eligibility for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and school sponsored dances for 45 days, including the 45th day, 5 events or 50% of the season whichever is longer. This does not include practices.
2. Before being re-admitted to activities following suspension for the second violation, excluding tobacco, the student shall show evidence in writing that he/she has sought an assessment and/or counseling from an certified Chemical Dependency Counselor. The assessment, counseling and/or drug treatment will be at the student's expense.

3. The student shall carry out an educational restitution program of five hours under the direction of the prevention coordinator and/or counselor. A student will not be allowed to participate in any activities during the current school year or following years until the required restitution is completed.
4. The student will be suspended for 1-3 days, which will be determined by administration.
5. Administration will contact Law Enforcement.

C. Third Violation

1. Penalty--after confirmation of the third and subsequent violations, the student shall immediately lose eligibility for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and school sponsored dances for the remainder of the school year or athletic season whichever is longer. If another violation occurs during the school year, the year suspension will start on the date of this violation.
2. Before being re-admitted to activities following suspension for the third violation, excluding tobacco, the student shall show evidence in writing that he/she has sought an assessment and/or counseling. The assessment, counseling and/or drug treatment will be at the student's expense.
3. The student shall carry out an educational restitution program of five hours under the direction of the prevention coordinator and/or counselor. A student will not be allowed to participate in any activities during the current school year or following years until the required restitution is completed.
4. The student will be suspended for 1-3 days, which will be determined by administration.
5. Administration will contact Law Enforcement.

D. Instances in which other school rules and regulations have been violated on a school sponsored trip, in a school building, or on school property, the administration shall deal with the student in addition to this policy.

E. Any student convicted for drugs will be suspended from school activities in accordance with state statute which can be found in the SDHSAA Handbook. If the student completes the prescribed treatment plan they will receive suspension for the number of events under the corresponding violation.

Appeals

1. In the event the student or parents believe the student's rights have been violated, they may appeal the principal's decision within five school days to the superintendent or designee. The superintendent or designee has five school days to respond to the appeal.
2. The student or parent may appeal the superintendent or designee's decision to the local board of education within 30 days. The board of education has 30 days to render their decision.
3. The student will remain ineligible during the appeal process.

D. Prevention/Education

The school will provide students with appropriate information and activities focused on educating students about drugs and alcohol and preventing their use. Programs shall teach students that the use of drugs and alcohol is wrong and harmful; how to resist peer pressure; and address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol abuse. Evidence-based programs, such as Project SUCCESS, not only provides classroom curriculum, but also school-wide prevention awareness campaigns and activities, and encourages students to participate in the Northwestern SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Chapter. Drug and alcohol education should be integrated across the curriculum.

E. Intervention

The principal and/or counselor will intervene with students with drug/alcohol problems by providing intervention services such as information, individual counseling, group counseling and additional educational services for those students in need. Students will be assisted in addressing their drug/alcohol problems and in continuing their educational program and cessation resources.

F. Treatment

For students needing more intensive assistance, the principal and/or counselor will refer them to counseling, treatment and/or relapse prevention support at their own expense. For further assistance, students and their families may contact:

Worthmore	605-622-5800
NADRIC	605-622-5960
Quitline (tobacco)	1-866-SDQUITS

G. Communication

This policy will be printed in both employee and student handbooks on a yearly basis and be available on the school website. Parents and guardians shall be sent notification in writing, including, but not limited to, through the school registration packet. Teachers, staff, coaches, and students will be informed through, but not limited to, staff meetings, Scratching Post articles, school announcements and student orientations. The local media will also be asked to communicate this policy community-wide. Signage shall be placed in appropriate locations throughout the district's buildings and grounds. Event programs and similar documents that are often viewed by visitors shall contain a notification of the policy. Coaches will disseminate this information during collective sports and/or individual team meetings such as the Fall Sports Meeting.