

PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY JICH – DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

Category: Recommended

The School Board is concerned with the health, welfare, and safety of its students. Therefore, the use, sale, transfer, distribution, possession or being under the influence of unauthorized prescription drugs, alcohol, narcotics, unauthorized inhalants, controlled substances, and illegal drugs is prohibited on any School District property, in any District-owned vehicle, or in any other District-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or District activities. This prohibition also applies to any District-sponsored or District-approved activity, event, or function. The use, sale, transfer, or possession of drug-related paraphernalia is also prohibited.

For the purposes of this policy, a controlled substance shall include any controlled substance as defined in the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 812(c), or RSA 318-B, Controlled Drug Act. The school principal shall immediately report all incidents involving a controlled substance to the appropriate local law enforcement agency and the Superintendent.

Students may only be in possession of medication as detailed in Policy JLCD. Searches of persons reasonably suspected to be in violation of this policy will be conducted in accordance with Board Policy JIH.

The School Board recognizes that abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a treatable health problem, which at times involves conditions and violations of law, and that involvement with alcohol and other drugs can interfere with a student's academic, physical, emotional, and social development. Further, the Board recognizes that the schools, families and the community at large have a responsibility to this important matter. Accordingly, the Board is committed to the health and well-being of its students through age appropriate programs and procedures and to an environment free from alcohol and other drugs.

The Board acknowledges the following school roles:

1. Educate students about alcohol and other drugs;
2. Respond supportively to those whose use of alcohol and/or other drugs interferes with school performance;
3. Promote a climate in which students can seek help if they are in distress from their own or others' use of alcohol and other drugs;
4. Help students recovering from dependency on alcohol and/or other drugs;
5. Develop and implement guidelines and sanctions in each school that
 - a. Define violations and their consequences,
 - b. Define immediate procedures for handling incidents;
 - c. Describe a support and referral system, which includes response to self-referrals and suspected users; and
 - d. Are clear and articulated to staff, parents and students.

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District Policy History:

Adopted: November 20, 2013

Revised: April 20, 2022

Legal References:

21 U.S.C. § 812(c), Controlled Substances Act

RSA 318-C, Controlled Drug Act

RSA 571-C:2, Intoxicating Beverages at Interscholastic Athletic Contests