

REGULATION Board of Education of Queen Anne's County

Responsible Office:	Student Support Services
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REGULATION for Substance Use Policy 527

I. PROCEDURES

A. The Board of Education of Queen Anne's County acknowledges the following school roles:

1. Educating students about substance use.
2. Responding supportively to those whose substance use interferes with school performance.
3. Promoting a climate in which students can seek help if they are in distress from their own or other's substance use.
4. Helping students recovering from substance use dependency.
5. Developing and implementing guidelines and sanctions in each school which:
 - (a) Define violations and their consequences, both disciplinary and supportive;
 - (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.
6. Professional Development for all staff.

B. Prevention/Education and Training

1. Prevention/Education

The Board will provide students in grades 3 through 12 with appropriate information and activities focused on educating students about drugs and alcohol and preventing their use. Programs shall teach students that substance use is wrong and harmful; how to resist peer pressure; and address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use.

2. Professional Development

The Board will provide all educators with basic information on how to identify the signs and symptoms of student substance use (and other mental health problems) and how to intervene or get the student help. School Counselors and staff will be trained on how to deliver substance use prevention curricula in the classroom. The Queen Anne's County Public School system will provide school administrators with training on the legal requirements for reporting student substance use to law enforcement, as well as on when and how to search students and their belongings for evidence of alcohol or drugs, use, possession, or distribution.

The Board will partner with local agencies to provide staff awareness and training for all educators in the QACPS system. Trained law enforcement will work with schools and school administrators to provide annual updates on the latest trends and information regarding substance use violations within the school community.

3. Students

The QACPS system has developed curricula to utilize knowledge of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs to develop skills and attitudes that promote drug and violence-free living.

- (a) Helps students recognize internal pressures, like wanting to belong to a group, and external pressures, like peer attitudes and advertising, that influence them to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs;
- (b) Facilitates development of personal, social, and refusal skills to resist these pressures;
- (c) Teaches that using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs is not the norm among teenagers, correcting the misconception that "everyone is doing it," and promotes positive norms through bonding to school and constructive role models;
- (d) Uses interactive teaching techniques, such as role plays, discussions, brainstorming, and cooperative learning;
- (e) Actively involves the family and the community so that prevention strategies are reinforced across settings;
- (f) Includes teacher training and support in order to assure that curricular are delivered as intended;
- (g) Contains material that is easy for teachers to implement and culturally relevant.

4. Parents and Community

The Board will partner with parents and community members in an effort to provide parents with knowledge, skills, and information that will help them talk to their children, identify signs and warning signals, and offer intervention and treatment options for those parents whose children are in need of support. Information will be

provided to parents through PTA's, back to school nights, community meetings, and Board of Education meetings.

C. Interventions/Treatments

1. Self-Reporting

Students may refer themselves for assistance with substance use or other problems without disciplinary action only if the information has not already been disclosed or discovered. A student concerned about his or her own substance use, or those of another student, may seek the assistance of a school counselor. Voluntary Help will not result in any disciplinary action. However, a student may not use Voluntary Help to avoid consequences after a known violation of the substance use policy.

2. Tobacco/Vaping Cessation

School administrators may opt to provide a tobacco cessation program as an alternative to suspension for teens who have been caught smoking or in possession of tobacco products. The program and curriculum are designed to motivate young people to decrease their tobacco use or quit on their own.

3. Full Assessment and Screening

If a student is found to have violated the QACPS Substance Use Policy, they will be referred to a licensed addictions program for a full assessment and screening. Non-compliance with the assessment may result in the denial of attendance and participation in extracurricular and school related activities.

D. Discipline/Consequences/Law Enforcement

1. The purpose of this statement is to establish the procedures to be used when:

- (a) A student on QACPS's property or engaged in a QACPS sponsored activity,
- (b) Is found to be using, under the influence of, possessing, manufacturing, distributing, or attempting to distribute alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, look-a-likes, or other intoxicants, or
- (c) Is representing that a substance is a controlled dangerous substance, or
- (d) Is in the possession of any paraphernalia as defined in the criminal statutes of Maryland.

2. QACPS recognizes that student substance use is an illegal act, as well as a personal and public health concern. Therefore, parents and students are advised that, in addition to school and school system based consequences, appropriate law enforcement agencies will be contacted by schools officials upon discovery of any student that is found to be using, under the influence of, possessing, manufacturing, distributing, or attempting to distribute alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, look-a-likes, or other intoxicants or is representing that a substance is a controlled dangerous substance, or is in the possession of any paraphernalia as defined in the criminal statutes of Maryland.

3. Disciplinary Action

Principals are given the authority in COMAR to give a discipline consequence to any student who violates the Substance Use Policy. Principals may suspend and/or recommend further action by the Superintendent for students who violate this policy, based upon the facts of each case and in accordance with established disciplinary procedure.

4. Reports to Law Enforcement

Because of the risks to student health and the safety of the schools and the district, the administration will report violation of the substance use policy to law enforcement.

5. Violation of Policy

(a) Investigation

- (i) The school administrator will promptly investigate any alleged violation of this policy and complete the required incident report.
- (ii) The School Nurse will provide assistance the school administration only to ensure the health and wellbeing of a student who is suspected to be under the influence of drugs and or alcohol.
- (iii) If, at the conclusion of the investigation, the school administrator finds that there has been a violation of this policy, consequent action will be in accordance with the provision of the QACPS Student Discipline Policy and Regulation.

(b) Consequences

- (i.) All students who violate the QACPS Substance Use Policy will be referred for a full assessment through a licensed addictions program or a state-certified addictions counselor. The student must provide documentation from the provider of his/her participation in the assessment. Non-compliance with the referral and assessment may result in the denial of other school related activities.
- (ii.) Parents of students who violate the QACPS Substance Use Policy will be required to participate in a student/parent conference with the school principal or designee before re-entry back to their home school.
- (iii.) Students may be given an Out of School Suspension.
- (iv) Students may be given a Suspension with a Recommendation for Further Action. Principals have the authority to suspend students up to 10 days. Principals also have the authority to request further additional action, which may include additional consequences from the Superintendent that go beyond a 10-day suspension.
- (v) Students, as part of a discipline consequence, may be denied attendance and participation in extracurricular and school-related activities for a period as determined by the principal. This may also include losing the privilege to park on school grounds or the participation in graduation exercises.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent directs QACPS staff to implement this regulation.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

Date: March 6, 2024



Patricia W. Saelens, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Queen Anne’s County Public Schools

HISTORY:

Initial Adoption	--/--/----	Revised	--/--/----	Reviewed	--/--/----	Next Review	--/--/----
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