

POLICY	5340 Adopted: August 22, 2006 Student Policies
---------------	---

SUBJECT: DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE

Self Referral

If a student of the Greater Southern Tier BOCES reveals to a certificated staff member that he has been or is involved in the personal abuse of drugs, a sincere effort should be made to maintain the student's trust regarding the confidentiality of his communication with the staff member and that actions taken by the staff member be of a non-threatening nature.

All action should be predicated on helping the student and, to the extent feasible, should be with the consent and knowledge of the student. It is imperative, however, that the parent be involved at the earliest possible opportunity.

When a student reveals to a staff member that he is or has been involved with drugs, it is the responsibility of the staff member to assist the student as follows:

1. Encourage the student to seek direct consultation with a staff member experienced in the area of drug counseling.
2. If an internal consultation is not possible, encourage the student to consult with an agency or person outside of school for expert assistance.
3. Parent(s) are to be involved at the earliest possible opportunity, but not later than the conclusion of the third conference or counseling action. This can be done by:
 - a. direct communication between the student and his parent(s).
 - b. direct communication between the staff member and the parent(s).
 - c. a conference including the parent(s), staff member(s), and the student.

Use of Drugs Illegally on School Property

When a student is found to be under the influence of drugs on school property or school vehicles, the student will be immediately referred to the building principal.

POLICY	5340 Adopted: August 22, 2006 Student Policies
---------------	---

The building principal will investigate the situation to the fullest extent possible and will notify the student's parent(s) and law enforcement authorities. The student may be suspended immediately in accordance with Education Law, Section 3214.

Possession or Sale of Drugs on School Property

As defined in Section 220 of the New York State Penal Law, "sale" is designed as "to sell, exchange, give or dispose to another or to offer or agree to do the same". Possession or sale of drugs will not be tolerated on the property or in any building of the school district.

A student found to be selling, distributing or possessing illegal drugs on school property will be referred to the building principal immediately. The building principal:

1. will notify the home school and appropriate law enforcement agency and cooperate where appropriate;
2. will investigate the situation to the fullest extent possible;
3. will notify the student's parent(s);
4. may suspend the student in accordance with Education Law, Section 3214; and
5. will refer the case, along with all supporting data to the social worker, counselor, or support agencies for further action.

Suspicion of the Use of Drugs

Great caution should be exercised to avoid unwarranted suspicion. If a student is suspected of using drugs illegally, the counselor of that student will be notified. The counselor will attempt to employ the procedures described under self referral above. If unsuccessful, the counselor will forward to the building principal all appropriate information along with recommendations for action. The building principal will then investigate the situation and take such action deemed necessary.

POLICY

5340

Adopted: August 22, 2006

Student Policies

Primary Prevention

The intent of primary prevention programming is to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol and other substance use by students. The components of this programming shall include:

1. A sequential prevention curriculum that provides for:
 - Accurate and age-appropriate information about alcohol and other substances, including the physical, psychological and social consequences for their use/abuse.
 - Information about the relationship of alcohol and other substance use/abuse to other health-compromising behaviors or illnesses such as HIV and AIDS, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, child abuse, suicide and dropping out of school.
 - Helping students develop appropriate life skills to resist the use of alcohol and other substances.
 - Helping students to promote healthy life styles.
 - Helping students identify personal risk factors for alcohol and other substance use/abuse and the steps needed for risk reduction.
 - Helping students develop a positive self-concept.
 - Helping students identify when they are under stress and how to manage or reduce such stress through non-chemical means.
2. Positive alternatives to alcohol and other substance use/abuse, such as peer leadership programs, service projects, and recreational and extracurricular activities. Such activities will be planned collaboratively with students, school staff, parent(s) or guardian(s), community members and agencies.

POLICY

5340

Adopted: August 22, 2006

Student Policies

Intervention

The intent of intervention programming is to eliminate any existing use/abuse of alcohol and other substances, and to identify and provide supportive services to kindergarten through 12th grade students at high risk for such use/abuse. The components of such programming shall include:

1. providing alcohol and other substance use/abuse assessment and counseling services for students;
2. developing a referral process between BOCES and community providers;
3. identifying and referring students to appropriate agencies when their use/abuse of alcohol and/or other substance requires counseling and/or treatment;
4. providing services to students in or returning from treatment to ensure that the school environment supports the process of recovery initiated in the treatment program;
5. educating parent(s) or guardian(s) on when and how to access the district's intervention services; and
6. ensuring confidentiality as required by Federal and State law.