

Policy

Date Adopted: August 31, 1976

Date Revised: June 26, 2012

## Drug and Alcohol Policy

The Pen Argyl Area School District Board of Education, Administration and staff believe in the individual value and potential of each member of the school community to develop to their full potential. We also recognize that problems created by chemical abuse and dependency have an adverse effect on all members of the school community. This policy is based on the belief that chemical usage or dependency can be life threatening and can disrupt the lives of the individuals involved, those of their closest relations and friends, and even those of innocent persons who may be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the school community to provide leadership in the prevention of all forms of chemical abuse. An educational program on the harmful effects of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco must be an important part of the curriculum from Kindergarten to graduation. Aggressive attempts to identify potential abusers and recommend appropriate support to address their problems are an integral part of the district plan. A key component of this process is the Student Assistance Program (SAP). The SAP team is a group of school personnel trained to identify high-risk students who are having academic or behavioral problems in school, which may have resulted from abuse of drugs or alcohol. Parents and members of the community will continue to support district initiatives to assist students to respond appropriately to the temptations associated with the use of controlled substances.

### **Definitions:**

- A. Confiscation - The seizure of any tobacco product, drug/alcohol or mood altering substance by school officials.
- B. Displaying Symptom(s) – Displaying one or more symptoms of the following symptoms:
  - 1. Odor of alcoholic beverages/or drugs
  - 2. Slurred speech
  - 3. Bloodshot eyes, glassy eyes, dilated pupils
  - 4. Excessive fatigue or hyperactivity
  - 5. Mention of alcohol/drug use
  - 6. Erratic behavior
- C. Distribution – Delivering, selling, passing, sharing or giving any alcohol, drug or mood-altering substance, as defined by this policy, from one person to another or aid therein.

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- D. **Illegal Substances** – Any alcohol or malt beverage, and drug listed in the Controlled Substance Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act (1972 P.L.233, No.64), or PA Drug Device and Cosmetic Act (Act 1971), as a controlled substance which is intended to alter mood. Examples include, but are not limited to, beer, wine, liquor, marijuana, hashish, chemical solvents, inhalants, glue, look-alike substances, and any capsule or pill not registered with the school nurse, annotated within the student’s health record and then administered in accordance with the school district’s policy for the administration of medication to students in school.
- E. **Drug Paraphernalia** – Any utensil or item, which in the school district’s representative’s reasonable judgement, is commonly associated with the use of drugs, alcohol, or mood-altering substances. Examples include, but are not limited to, roach clips, pipes, and bowls.
- F. **Possession** – The act of holding on one’s person or among one’s possessions, or under one’s control, without any attempt to distribute alcohol, drug, or mood-altering substances as defined by this policy.
- G. **School Property** – Includes buildings, facilities and grounds on the school campus, as well as, any off-campus buildings, facilities, or grounds used for a school function, school bus stop, school parking areas, and on any route traveled to and from school by any means.
- H. **School-Sponsored Activity** – Any school approved activity before, during, or after school hours.
- I. **Student Assistance Program Team** – A team composed of school personnel which is trained to understand and work on the issues of adolescent chemical use, abuse, death, suicide, pregnancy, and mental health. The SAP team operates within the guidelines established by the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994.
- J. **Underage Drinking** – The consumption, possession, or displaying symptoms associated with alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 years of age.

**GENERAL RULES**

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or illegal substances are not allowed on school property and/or grounds of the Pen Argyl Area School District, at any school district sponsored activity (on school property or elsewhere) or on any school sponsored transportation. Student compliance with the rules, regulations and standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions established by the school district is mandatory.

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**Procedures:**

Pursuant to this policy, the following rules and procedures shall be used by all school district personnel when responding to drug and alcohol related situations involving any student in school, at school sponsored activities, on school approved transportation, or participating in school sponsored activities on or off school property:

A. Distribution of alcoholic beverages, or illegal substances on school property, at school sponsored activities, or district approved transportation.

1. Notification of local/state law enforcement agencies.
2. Notification of parent or legal guardian of the student.
3. 10-day out-of-school suspension.
4. Referral to Student Assistance Program.
5. Recommendation for expulsion.
6. Students involved in athletics or extra-curricular/co-curricular activities will be subject to additional penalties as stated in the athletic and/or extra-curricular and co-curricular activities subsection of this policy.

B. Consumption, possession and/or displaying of symptom(s) indicative, or associated with underage drinking or illegal substance use, and/or possession of drug paraphernalia on school property, school sponsored activities, or district approved transportation.

1. Notification of local/state law enforcement agencies.
2. Notification of parent or legal guardian of the student.
3. Up to a 10-day out-of-school suspension.
4. Referral to Student Assistance Program.
5. Possible recommendation for expulsion.
6. Students involved in athletics or extra-curricular/co-curricular activities will be subject to additional penalties as stated in the athletic and/or extra-curricular and co-curricular activities subsection of this policy.
7. Emergency Situations (Overdose/Intoxication).
  - a. Provisions for emergency medical attention.
  - b. Numbers one through six will be followed under procedure B.

C. Distribution, possession of and/or use of tobacco products on school property, school sponsored activities, or school approved transportation is prohibited by Pennsylvania State Law. Violators will be subject to the following:

1. Summary fine.
2. 3-day out-of-school suspension.
3. Students involved in athletics or extra/co-curricular activities will be subject to additional penalties at the discretion of the coach or advisor.

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- D. The smoking or ingestion in any form of bath salts and/or herbal blends including but not limited to: K2, Spice, Red Dawn, Spirit, and Mamba ARE CONSIDERED TO BE MOOD ALTERING AND LOOK-ALIKE SUBSTANCES UNDER OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY. As a result, POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION, OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SUCH SUBSTANCES WILL BE TREATED AS A POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM PEN ARGYL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT. Users of these substances suffer from extreme anxiety, agitation, hallucination, pale skin, vomiting and seizures.

**ATHLETICS**  
**EXTRA-CURRICULAR and CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

It is a privilege to participate in athletics and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities. Each participant represents our school and with representation comes the responsibility to uphold the standards of the school district and community. Violation of the school district's drug and alcohol policy will subject participants in athletics and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities to additional penalties as follows:

**Definitions:**

- A. Co-curricular – A school-sponsored activity that supplements a credited course. Examples include, but are not limited to, curriculum related field trips, choral concerts, band concerts, orchestra concerts, parades, assemblies and competitions.
- B. Extra-curricular – Any non-curricular school-sponsored activity. Examples include, but are not limited to, the prom, class trips, school play, ski-club, scholastic scrimmage, student government, athletics, and practices for any of these activities.

Students involved in athletics and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities are also subject to the penalties as stated under sections A. number 6, B. number 6, and C. number 3, of the general rules and procedures. These sections do not apply if the offense is committed off school property and off school time at a non-school function or event. The previous sentence notwithstanding, if a student from another district establishes a bona fide residence within the Pen Argyl Area School District, but has committed any offense at his or her prior district which rendered the student ineligible to participate in extra-curricular and/or co-curricular activities, such student shall be ineligible to participate in such activities for the same period of time in the Pen Argyl Area School District.

The exclusion rule will take effect immediately upon notification of the school administration, student and parent.

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**Athletic and Extra-Curricular/Co-Curricular Exclusion Rule:**

**First Offense:**

Students will be suspended from participation from all athletics and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities for a period of 45 consecutive school days. The suspension shall include all school calendar days falling within the said 45 school day period.

In the case where an offense occurs during the summer, the exclusion penalty for the student will begin on the earlier of either the first day of school or the first day that the Fall activity/practices begin, as specified by PIAA for Fall athletics/activities.

Where there are less than 45 days left in a school year, the completion of the exclusion rule will carry over to the next school year. The continuing dates to complete the fulfillment of the penalty shall be the same as listed above, either the first day of school or the first day the Fall activity practice begins, this includes the first day of practice specified by PIAA, for Fall athletes.

**Second Offense:**

Participants will be suspended from all athletics and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities for an entire calendar year, beginning the day the student is notified of the discipline.

**Third Offense:**

Participants will be permanently suspended from all athletics and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities for the remainder of his/her high school career.

Coaches/Activity Advisors may establish more stringent rules than what is set forth in this policy for participation in the sport/activity that they oversee. Such rules must have the approval of the High School Principal and the Athletic Director. Also, such rules are to be put in writing and signed by the student and their parent/guardian.