

Substance Use Policy

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Barrington Public Schools that the school environment shall be free from the use, possession, or distribution of prohibited substances (as defined within this policy). The Barrington Public Schools will take every reasonable step to eliminate prohibited substances and their effect on the schools. This includes health and substance use education, close communication and cooperation with parents and other interested persons, and enforcement of this policy and Rhode Island State Laws. The Barrington Public Schools focuses these activities on the welfare and development of the individual student. Furthermore, the Committee encourages all staff to become actively involved in enforcing this Substance use Policy. The Barrington School Committee reserves the right, without notice, to modify the definition of Prohibited Substances at any time.

DEFINITIONS

“Distribution” means the transferring or delivering of a prohibited substance to another person, including for sale.

“Possession” means having a prohibited substance on one’s person or under one’s control.

“Prohibited Substance” means illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or other controlled substances (as defined under Rhode Island Law), as well as any other chemical substance that can impair the normal functioning of a person, other than medication specifically prescribed to an individual.

“Use” means to consume, make use of, or be under the influence of a prohibited substance.

POLICY

The use, possession, and distribution of prohibited substances is not allowed within the school environment, which includes any school, school grounds, school-related or school-sponsored activity, whether held on school property or at locations off school property, and in school vehicles. This policy also applies to students within the established drug-free zones under Rhode Island State Law.

Violation of Substance Use Policy

First Offense for a Use or Possession Violation:

1. Students will, if applicable, have such prohibited substances confiscated which will be turned over to officials according to legal standards;

2. Have their parent or guardian notified of the offense - if the school nurse suspects a student is under the influence at school the parent/guardian will be required to pick their child up;
3. In the event of concern regarding the health and safety of the child, an ambulance may be called;
4. Receive a referral to the BPS Student Assistance Counselor, and receive a minimum of one full day of in-school suspension or similar where the student will complete an online course selected by the BPS Student Assistance Counselor. A certificate of completion of the course will be given to the Student Assistance Counselor and forwarded to the Assistant Principal. If the student refuses to complete the course, a meeting with the parent or guardian will be held.

Second Offense for a Use or Possession Violation:

1. Students will, if applicable, have such prohibited substances confiscated which will be turned over to officials according to legal standards;
2. Have a meeting scheduled with the parent or guardian and school administration - if the school nurse suspects a student is under the influence at school the parent/guardian will be required to pick their child up;
3. In the event of concern regarding the health and safety of the child, an ambulance may be called;
4. Will engage in regular meetings with the BPS Student Assistance Counselor, and receive a minimum of two full days of in-school suspension or similar where the student will complete the online course(s) selected by the BPS Student Assistance Counselor, and be suspended from participation in and attendance at any extracurricular activities or events for a minimum of one week. A certificate of completion of the course will be given to the Student Assistance Counselor and forwarded to the Assistant Principal. Referral to an outside agency for counseling may be made at the discretion of the Student Assistance Counselor.

An offense for a Distribution Violation or Third or More Possession Offense:

1. Students will have such prohibited substances confiscated which will be turned over to officials according to legal standards;
2. Have a meeting scheduled with the parent or guardian and school administration - if the school nurse suspects a student is under the influence at school the parent/guardian will be required to pick their child up;
3. In the event of concern regarding the health and safety of the child, an ambulance may be called;
4. Will engage in regular meetings with the BPS Student Assistance Counselor;
5. Receive a minimum of five full days of in-school suspension or similar where the student will complete the online course(s) selected by the BPS Student Assistance Counselor, and be suspended from participation in and attendance at any extracurricular activities or events for a minimum of one week, and be referred to the School Resource Officer or Barrington Police. A certificate of completion of the course will be given to the Student Assistance Counselor and forwarded to the Assistant Principal. Referral to an outside

agency for counseling may be made at the discretion of the Student Assistance Counselor.

Subsequent Offenses for Use:

1. Students will if applicable, have such prohibited substances confiscated which will be turned over to officials according to legal standards;
2. Have a meeting scheduled with the parent or guardian and school administration - if the school nurse suspects a student is under the influence at school the parent/guardian will be required to pick their child up;
3. In the event of concern regarding the health and safety of the child, an ambulance may be called;
4. Receive a minimum of four full days of in-school suspension or similar where the student will complete the online course(s) selected by the BPS Student Assistance Counselor, and be suspended from participation in and attendance at any extracurricular activities or events for a minimum of thirty days. A certificate of completion of the course will be given to the Student Assistance Counselor and forwarded to the Assistant Principal. The student will continue with required meetings with the Student Assistance Counselor.
5. The student will be referred to the Superintendent for possible further disciplinary action based on the nature and circumstance of the violation(s). Referral to an outside agency for counseling may be made at the discretion of the Student Assistance Counselor.

Note: Student-athletes are subject to the requirements and consequences outlined by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

Section 2. Self-Referral

Schools will provide counseling referrals to any student voluntarily seeking support, guidance, or treatment related to substance use without imposing a penalty for violation of this policy. Through our educational programs and working cooperatively with parents, our goal is to provide the information and knowledge that will enable our students to make substance use prevention decisions.

Section 3. Substance Use or Alcohol Use at School Events

- In accordance with the BPS Alcohol Sensor Policy, universal screening using an alcohol sensor or similar device will occur at major events or be used at school in the case of reasonable suspicion.
- For the safety of students and others, the individual will be denied entry to the event and will be released into the custody of their parent or guardian or, if they are unavailable, to another responsible adult on their emergency contact to transport the individual safely home.
- The student will also be referred to the student assistance counselor.
- Students may also face consequences based on Interscholastic Team Rules.
- The student may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the BPS Substance Use Policy and their families will be called to pick them up.

- If the School Resource Officer is present, the purpose of the sensor is for the safety of the student and community, and not for legal purposes. The SRO will intercede only in the event that a student suspected of being under the influence refuses to cooperate with the administration to the extent that they may place themselves or others in danger by driving or engaging in other dangerous activities. In the instance of concern regarding the health and safety of the individual, an ambulance may also be called.

Section 4. Fair and equitable implementation

This policy and penalties for violations will be carried out fairly and equitably. Schools will maintain demographic records on students penalized under the policy and conduct periodic reviews to look for inconsistencies in the types of students being caught and penalized as well as the severity of the punishment. Penalties shall be applied universally regardless of a student's sex, sexual identity, race, age, ethnicity, primary language, academic standing, immigration status, employment status, family income, zip code, physical abilities, or participation in student academics, athletics, or extracurricular clubs and activities.

In the case of a potential criminal offense, the instance will be reported to the Barrington Police Department.

In all circumstances, BPS school administrators shall have the right to remove a student from school if the student poses an immediate threat to themselves or to other students.

Legal References

RI Gen law 16-21-16

RI Gen Law 16-21-21.1

RI Gen Law 21-28-1.02

RI Gen Law 21-28-.4.07.1

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Policy Adopted [06/17/2021]