

ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE BY STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN CO-CURRICULAR

The Ellsworth School Board (ESB) is committed to providing a quality learning environment for all students. A quality learning environment includes a school which is free from the detrimental effects of illegal substances. The ESB recognizes that substance abuse and dependency are treatable diseases.

To promote and provide a quality learning environment within all Ellsworth School Department (ESD) schools, the ESB endorses a three-prong approach to prevent, discourage, and eliminate substance use by students. This three pronged approach will address prevention leading to elimination through education, intervention, and discipline.

In order to promote the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the safety, health and well-being of students, it is the policy of the ESB that students participating in Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) not use, possess, furnish, be under the influence of, or be in the presence of, any substance and/or paraphernalia designed for, or utilized in, the use of such substances at any time.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Substance: Any substance whether illicit or licit, that when used, affects mental processes, including, but not limited to cognition, behavior, and/or personality. Included are scheduled drugs as defined in Title 17-A, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Chapter 45 and/or regulated by the Federal Controlled Substances Act (Title 21 Chapter 13 of the United States Code: Drug Abuse Prevention and Control). This includes, but is not limited, to alcohol, inhalants, steroids, cannabis, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, narcotics and any prescription medication(s) not prescribed by licensed Medical Professionals specifically for the individual student that has it in his/her possession.

Attendance at School: Includes but is not limited to the following circumstances; any time a student is traveling to and from school or a school sponsored activity (whether by bus or private vehicle), any time a student is on ESD property whether during, before or after school hours; and any time a student is representing any ESD school off ESD property but on an ESD sponsored trip/activity.

CCA: Any ESD/school sponsored, non-graded (no formal grade is assigned), student activity.

ESD Sponsored Activity: Whether graded or non-graded, but is not limited to, any CCA, field trips, class trips, dances, or other similar education and recreational activities.

Length of Season:

Ellsworth High School - The length of each athletic season is defined as “from the time tryouts begin to the end of season awards presentations.” The length of the season for performing arts is defined as “from the time of first tryouts/rehearsals until the final performance/competition or end date concludes the program.” For any clubs/activities that do not have a defined beginning and end of season, beginning and end of season will be the beginning and end of the academic ranking period.

Ellsworth Middle School - The length of each athletic season is defined as “from the time tryouts begin until the end of the final contest/event.” The length of the season for performing arts is defined as “from the time of first tryouts/rehearsals until the final performance/competition or end date concludes the program.” For any clubs/activities that do not have a defined beginning and end of

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Student: A person enrolled in any ESD educational program, or attending a school sponsored activity normally intended for ESD students, regardless of whether this person takes educational classes, and/or any person “home schooled” or “alternatively schooled” or otherwise not attending classes at an ESD school but who is on ESD property or attending any ESD sponsored activity relating to their course of education.

Self-Referral: The requesting of assistance from an Administrator PRIOR to being involved in any substance abuse incident and/or investigation, whether or not the student has knowledge that such investigation is in progress. Students may self refer one time only!

Parent: Refers to the student’s parent(s) and/or Legal Guardian.

In the Presence Of: Any student that finds himself/herself in a situation where he/she knowingly, or could reasonably be expected to have knowledge that substance(s) are present and/or are being used and does not take steps to extricate him/her self from the area in a timely manner. “Timely manner” will be determined by the BA during his/her investigation.

Communication:

This policy will be posted on the ESD website and printed in all student handbooks. All parents and students involved in any CCA must sign a contract stating they have read, understand, and will abide by the terms of this policy.

Roles of ESD Professional Staff:

1. Will become familiar with this policy and its impact on students.
2. Will assist in educating all students about the scope and purpose of this policy.
3. If a student appears to be in violation of this policy, necessary action shall be initiated to secure the health and safety of all students.
4. Must be familiar with the resources available to students that are seeking assistance with a substance abuse problem, and will treat any/all such requests for assistance as confidential and direct the student to the social worker/guidance counselor/ substance abuse counselor.
5. All staff shall report any violations of this policy to the BA immediately.

Investigation and Evidence to Support Conclusion of Violation:

It shall be the responsibility of the BA involved to ensure an investigation is conducted on any/all infractions, allegations or information concerning possible violations of this policy. In any case where a violation is found to have occurred, a parent shall be contacted by the BA/ABA.

CCA Participants:

A. The ESB is adopting a stricter substance use prohibition policy for those students involved in CCA’s. The purpose for this is three fold (1) to provide for the health and safety of all CCA students; (2) to undermine peer pressure to use drugs by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use drugs; and (3) to encourage CCA students that have used drugs to participate in treatment.

B. Each student wishing to participate in any CCA, and the student’s custodial parent/guardian, shall agree in writing to the provisions of this policy. No student will be allowed to participate in any CCA without such consent.

C. Students participating in CCA’s are subject to this policy 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7) for the defined CCA season.

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Discipline for CCA Participants:

In addition to the discipline stipulated for all students in ESD policy JICH, participants in CCAs are subject to the following additional disciplinary measures:

Initial Violation: Participants are placed on a five (5) week probationary period, commencing from the completion of the BA investigation and communication of findings. During the five (5) week probation period student participants will not be permitted to participate in or attend games /competitions / performances but will be required to attend and participate in all practices / rehearsals. Additionally, the student will be required to meet with the school substance abuse counselor until it is determined by the provider that counseling is no longer necessary. Student participants who have not completed the five (5) week probationary period prior to the beginning of next CCA or beginning of the next school year will be eligible for tryouts for that activity, but will need to successfully complete the probationary period prior to retaining full eligibility for games/competitions/performances.

Second Violation: Participants will be ineligible to participate in any CCA for a ten (10) week period. During the ten (10) week period the participant will be required to attend meetings with the school substance abuse counselor until such time as the provider determines counseling is no longer necessary. The participant will not be permitted to participate in or attend practices/rehearsals or games/competitions/performances during the ten (10) week period.

Third Violation: Participants will be ineligible to participate in any CCA for one calendar year. To become eligible after the calendar year, the participant must provide a report from a substance abuse counselor that counseling is no longer necessary.

Fourth Violation: Participants will be ineligible to participate in any CCA for remainder of their enrollment in the Ellsworth School Department.

Procedures for Coaches/Advisors:

All coaches/advisors must report any violations of this policy to the Athletic Director or BA immediately.

Appeals:

Any student or parents of a student punished pursuant to this policy may appeal the BA's decision to the Superintendent. If still not satisfied, they may request to appeal to the ESB. The ESB will hear the appeal in executive session. The finding of the ESB will be final!

Ref: Title 17-A, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Chapter 45
Federal Controlled Substances Act (Title 21 Chapter 13 of the United States Code
The No Child Left Behind Act (P.L. 107-110) as amended

Cross Reference: ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace
JKD – Suspension of Students
JKE – Expulsion of Students
JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

Approved: September 13, 2016

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