**Procedure: Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

**Code: C02p**

Students who are experiencing problems with alcohol, marijuana and/or drugs need assistance. The type of assistance needed may vary; however, the school system is committed to providing the most appropriate response to each individual. The actions set forth below will be considered routine procedures. School staff will immediately report any violation of the law, including illegal possession or distribution of drugs or alcohol, to the Principal.

In situations where extreme violations occur, the specific action may be waived by the administrator. Any action taken by waiver of these procedures will be explained in a written report to the Superintendent. All disciplinary measures taken in accordance with these procedures will comply with due process requirements and, where appropriate, will be consistent with the rights of students with disabilities as reflected in the school’s discipline policy (C20).

**Students in Possession of Drugs, Drug Paraphernalia, Marijuana and/or Alcohol:**

When students are found in possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, marijuana, and/or alcohol, the substance(s) or items will be confiscated. Procedures for handling such incidents will be identical to those used when a student is found to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, except that the student will not be treated as an ill student and monitored until a parent arrives and picks them up from school.

**Suspected Substance Abuse:**

When a staff member has reason to believe that a student might be having a problem related to substance abuse, the staff member shall make a referral to the Substance Abuse Team.

**Community Involvement:**

Administration will work with school staff and community members to implement a program to inform the school community about substance abuse issues in accord with State Board of Education rules.

**Annual Report:**

In a standard format provided by the Vermont Agency of Education, administration will submit an annual report to the Secretary of Education describing substance abuse education programs and their effectiveness.