

**Derry Cooperative School District #1  
NH School Administrative Unit #10  
18 South Main Street  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038**

**EPS CODE: JICH**

**DISTRICT CODE:**

## **ALCOHOL USE/DRUG ABUSE BY STUDENT**

The Derry Cooperative School Board affirms that the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol is an increasing problem among all youth, not only in Derry but also throughout New Hampshire and the United States.

The nature of the drug and alcohol problem indicates that although the schools have a responsibility in this area, the entire community must be involved in solving the problem - schools, parents, police, clergy, legislative bodies, and other social agencies.

All administrative, supervisory, teaching, and health personnel in the Derry public schools shall implement the following policy and regulations relative to drug and alcohol problems.

It is the School Board's conviction that a drug and alcohol policy should be broad and flexible with the primary concern being that which benefits the common good, yet keeps in mind the welfare of the individual who might be a drug or alcohol user or abuser. Our policy and regulations are directed towards guidance and rehabilitation services to ensure that the causes of drug and alcohol abuse are treated, not merely the symptoms.

### Emergencies

Nothing in this policy should deter any school employee from initiating quicker and more effective action than outlined in the regulations if a student is obviously in need of immediate medical assistance.

### Jurisdiction

Any instance of possession, sale, misuse, or abuse of drugs by a student occurring beyond the jurisdiction of the School District will not be the subject of this policy statement.

### Procedures for Handling Students Suspected of Using or Being Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol

1. Teachers are asked not to make any direct accusations, remembering that the procedure for treating students shall be basically the same as the procedure for treating students showing signs of illness. In all such cases, the school nurse and/or school administrator must be notified.
2. Depending upon the mobility of the student, the student shall be taken to the nurse by the teacher or administrator. Again, this should be done as quickly and as tactfully as possible, assuming at this time the student is ill. It is to be remembered that young people who become involved in these problems are young adults who are in need of counseling or treatment.
3. The school nurse and/or school administrator shall make a judgment as to whether the student is in need of immediate medical attention. If so, the parents are to be informed and the parents and/or nurse will make arrangements to transfer the student to the hospital.

4. Subsequently, if, indeed, it is determined that the student was under the influence of drugs or alcohol during regular school hours or any school-sponsored activity, the building principal in his judgment, may suspend the student.

Procedure for Faculty Regarding Students Who is Using Drugs or Alcohol Illegally (teacher told in confidence)

The teacher or staff member, using tact, guarding the student's welfare, and working closely with the guidance department, will attempt to convince the student to seek help from a qualified person or agency.

Procedure for Handling Students Who Have Possession of Drugs or Alcohol in School

1. The teacher or staff member must bring the student and any drugs or alcohol to a school principal.
2. A school principal and nurse will make the judgment regarding the immediate medical needs of the student.
3. A building principal will notify the parents (at all times) and the police department (drug cases only) and follow up with a report to the Superintendent.

In Cases When It has Been Established That a Student Has Been Using/Selling Drugs or Alcohol

1. Any student found to have been selling or transferring a drug or alcoholic beverage to another student, will be suspended from school attendance for a period of not more than 10 days pending a hearing before the School Board to extend the suspension and with his/her parents shall be required to meet with a school administrator and the Superintendent of Schools.
2. Any student who has been found to have in his/her possession drugs and/or alcoholic beverage will be suspended from school attendance for a period of not more than 10 school days and with his/her parents will be required to meet with the school administrator. Suspension may be increased following a disciplinary hearing before the School Board.
3. Any student who has been found to be under the influence of alcohol while school is in session will be suspended from school for a period of not more than 10 school days and with his/her parents will be required to meet with the school administrator. Suspension may be increased following a disciplinary hearing before the School Board.
4. Any student found to have violated policy may be required to attend a meeting of the School Board with his parents. Court action may also be initiated for the violators of this policy.
5. Second offenders of the above policy will be referred to the Superintendent of Schools and the Derry School Board for possible expulsion from school.
6. In all cases of drug use, a statement will be required from a recognized rehabilitation agency or drug abuse counselor indicating that an appointment has been made or that the student has been seen relative to the suspected drug problem. The student may not return

from the suspension until this statement has been received by the school administration. If the required statement is not received by the school administration within ten (10) days of the suspensions inception, the Derry School Board will be notified. Further action will be by vote of the Board.

7. Periodic follow-up will be carried on by the building principal or his/her designee to be sure the student is following prescribed therapy.

8. The Superintendent shall report to the School Board at its next regular meeting any student found to have violated this policy.

9. For the purpose of this policy "school in session" shall be interpreted to mean from the first day of school in September to the last day of school, including graduation

**NOTE: Students bringing prescription narcotics to school must report to the nurse or school principal upon entering school. Policy for handling these prescriptions shall be in accordance with state law.**