

**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS**

The Governing Board believes that the use of alcohol or other drugs adversely affects a student's ability to achieve academic success, is physically and emotionally harmful, and has serious social and legal consequences. The Board desires to keep district schools free of alcohol and other drugs and desires that every effort be made to reduce student use of these substances. The Board perceives this effort as an important step towards preventing violence, promoting school safety, and creating a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a comprehensive prevention and intervention program that includes instruction, referral to a rehabilitation program, enforcement/discipline, activities that promote the involvement of parents/guardians, and coordination with appropriate community agencies and organizations.

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safe Schools Plan)*  
*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*  
*(cf. 4020 - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)*  
*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

The Superintendent or designee shall clearly communicate to all students, staff and parents/guardians the district's policies, regulations and school rules related to the use of alcohol and other drugs on school campuses or at school activities. Information about program needs and goals shall be widely distributed in the community.

*(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)*  
*(cf. 5131.61 - Drug Testing)*  
*(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)*  
*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

The Board expects staff to conduct themselves in accordance with the district's philosophy related to alcohol and other drugs. Staff should help students see themselves as responsible partners in efforts to maintain a safe, constructive school climate.

*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*

The Board also encourages the establishment of site-level advisory groups to assist in promoting alcohol- and drug-free schools.

**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)**

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

**Instruction**

The district shall provide preventative instruction which helps students avoid the use of alcohol and other drugs. Comprehensive, age-appropriate K-12 instruction shall address the legal, social, personal and health consequences of drug and alcohol use, promote a sense of individual responsibility, and inform students about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use alcohol and other drugs.

All instruction and related materials shall consistently state that unlawful use of alcohol or other drugs is wrong and harmful. Instruction shall not include the concept of responsible use when such use is illegal.

Teachers shall be trained to answer students' questions related to alcohol and drugs and to help students obtain and use current and accurate information, develop and maintain a positive self-concept, take positive actions to cope with stress, and use appropriate social and personal skills to resist involvement with alcohol and other drugs.

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 6142.2 - AIDS Prevention Instruction)*

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

*(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*

**Intervention, Referral and Recovering Student Support**

The Board believes that effective interventions should be available to assist students who use alcohol or other drugs. School staff, students and parents/guardians shall be informed about signs and symptoms which may indicate alcohol and other drug use and about appropriate agencies offering intervention programs, counseling and rehabilitation for students and their family members. The district shall help recovering students to avoid reinvolvement with alcohol and other drugs by providing school and/or community service activities designed to increase students' sense of community.

*(cf. 6142.4 - Learning Through Community Service)*

**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)**

The Board strongly encourages any student who is using alcohol or drugs to discuss the matter with his/her parent/guardian or with any staff member. Students who disclose their use of alcohol or other drugs when seeking help from an intervention or recovery program shall not be disciplined for such use.

**Enforcement/Discipline**

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or sale of alcohol and other drugs and related paraphernalia on school grounds, at school events, or in any situation in which the school is responsible for the conduct and well-being of students. School authorities may search students and school properties for the possession of alcohol and other drugs in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

*(cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension)*

*(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)*

Students possessing, using or selling alcohol or other drugs or related paraphernalia at school or at a school event shall be subject to disciplinary procedures including suspension or expulsion in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations. Such students also may be referred to an appropriate rehabilitation program.

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

*Legal Reference:*

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

25608 Alcohol on school property; use in connection with instruction

EDUCATION CODE

44049 Known or suspected alcohol or drug abuse by student

48900 Suspension or expulsion (grounds)

48900.5 Suspension, limitation on imposition; exception

48901 Smoking or use of tobacco prohibited

48901.5 Prohibition of electronic signaling devices

48902 Notification of law enforcement authorities; civil or criminal immunity

48909 Narcotics or other hallucinogenic drugs

48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

49423 Administration of prescribed medication

49480 Notice to school by parent or guardian; consultation with physician

*Legal Reference continued: (see next page)*

**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)**

49602 Confidentiality of pupil information  
51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety  
51203 Instruction on alcohol, narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs  
51210 Areas of study  
51220 Areas of study, grades 7 to 12  
51260 Elementary and secondary school instruction in drug education by appropriately trained instructors  
51262 Use of anabolic steroids; legislative finding and declaration  
51264 CDE assistance for inservice training  
51265 Gang violence and drug and alcohol abuse prevention inservice  
51268 Collaboration to avoid duplication of effort  
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE  
11032 Narcotics, restricted dangerous drugs and marijuana; construction of terms used in other divisions  
11053-11058 Standards and schedules  
11353.6 Juvenile Drug Trafficking and Schoolyard Act  
11357 Unauthorized possession of marijuana; punishment; prior conviction; possession in school or on school grounds  
11361.5 Destruction of arrest or conviction records  
11372.7 Drug program fund; uses  
11802 Joint school-community alcohol abuse primary education and prevention program  
11965-11969 The School-Community Primary Prevention Program  
11998-11998.3 Drug and Alcohol Abuse Master Plans  
11999-11999.3 Alcohol and drug program funding; no unlawful use  
124175-124200 Adolescent family life program (Department of Health Services)

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)**

*Legal Reference: (continued)*

PENAL CODE

13864 Comprehensive alcohol and drug prevention education

VEHICLE CODE

13202.5 Drug and alcohol related offenses by person under age of 21, but aged 13 or over; suspension, delay, or restriction of driving privileges

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

828 Disclosure of information re minors

828.1 Disclosure of criminal records; protection of vulnerable staff & students

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

5812 National education goals

7101-7143 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994

**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS**

**Instruction**

Students shall receive instruction by appropriately trained instructors about the nature and effects of alcohol and other drugs, including dangerous drugs defined by Health and Safety Code 11032. (Education Code 51260)

Site administrators shall determine that drug education instructors possess: (Education Code 51260)

1. The ability to interact with students in a positive way
2. Knowledge of the properties and effects of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics, dangerous drugs, and shared drug apparatus
3. Effective teaching skills and competency in helping students to express opinions responsibly and to become aware of their values as they affect drug-use decisions

At all grade levels, instruction shall include a study of the effects of alcohol and other drugs upon the human system, as determined by science. Instruction shall be sequential in nature and suited to meet the needs of students at their respective grade level. (Education Code 51203, 51260)

In grades 1 through 6, instruction in drug education should be given in health courses required by Education Code 51210. (Education Code 51260)

In grades 7 through 12, instruction in drug education shall be conducted in health courses and in any other appropriate area of study required by Education Code 51220. (Education Code 51260)

Secondary school instruction shall include a study of the effects of alcohol and other drugs upon prenatal development. (Education Code 51203)

*(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*

The district drug education program shall augment county drug education services, if any. District staff shall take every opportunity to cooperate with county office of education staff

**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS** (continued)

in planning and implementing collaborative alcohol and drug prevention programs. (Education Code 51260, 51268)

**Intervention**

The staff shall intervene whenever students use alcohol or other illegal drugs while on school property or under school jurisdiction. Staff members who believe that a student may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall immediately notify the principal or designee.

If the principal or designee knows, observes or suspects that a student may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, he/she may notify the parent/guardian. (Education Code 44049)

However, school staff shall not disclose confidential information provided during counseling by a student 12 years of age or older. School counselors may report such information to the principal or parent/guardian only when they believe that disclosure is necessary to avert a clear and present danger to the health, safety or welfare of the student or other persons living in the school community. They shall not disclose such information to the parent/guardian if they believe that the disclosure would result in a clear and present danger to the student's health, safety or welfare. (Education Code 44049, 49602)

*(cf. 5145.1 - Privacy)*

In cases of medical emergency, the principal is authorized to call an ambulance to remove the student to a hospital. Parents/guardians will be notified of this action and shall be responsible for the incurred expenses.

*(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)*

**Confiscation of Electronic Signaling Devices**

Because electronic signaling devices (beepers, cellular telephones, etc.) are sometimes used to facilitate illegal drug transactions, the possession or use of such devices by students is prohibited on school premises, at all school-sponsored activities, and at any time while students are under the

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supervision and control of district employees. An exception shall be made only when the principal or designee has determined that the device is essential. (Education Code 48901.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall confiscate these devices from students.

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

**Enforcement/Discipline**

Staff shall notify the principal or designee immediately upon suspecting a student is selling, providing or using alcohol or other drugs.

When any student uses, possesses or sells alcohol or illegal drugs at school or while under school jurisdiction, the following shall result:

1. Parent/guardian contact
2. Suspension or expulsion in accordance with law or Board policy

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

3. Contact with law enforcement authority within one school day of the suspension (Education Code 48902)

In addition, the following actions may be taken:

1. Referral to an appropriate counseling program
2. Transfer/alternative placement
3. Restriction from all extracurricular activities, including athletics

*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*



**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS** (continued)

**Reports**

Upon request, the Superintendent or designee shall submit alcohol and drug prevention program information to the California Department of Education, including information on the prevalence of drug use and violence by youth in the schools and community. Such information shall also be made readily available to the public. (20 U.S.C. 7117)

Regulation  
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**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California