

**Wilson Area School District**

**Drugs/Alcohol/Mood-Altering Chemical Substances**

The School Board recognizes that the abuse of drugs, alcohol, and mood-altering substances, particularly among young people, is a major issue confronting our society. The Board further recognizes that the misuse of drugs and alcohol is a serious problem with legal, physical and social implications affecting the whole school community. As such, the Board believes a coordinated curriculum that provides a wealth of information at various grade levels is the most appropriate way to prevent student misuse of drugs, alcohol, or other mind-altering chemical substances. It is the intent of the Wilson Area School District to initiate intervention procedures when behavioral indicators suggest drugs, alcohol, other mood-altering substances, look-alike substances, or potentially health endangering substances may affect a student's learning and school success.

For the purpose of this policy, controlled substance shall mean all controlled substances prohibited by law, any steroid or other substance intended to enhance physical or athletic performance, any violable solvent or inhalant, such as but not limited to glue and aerosol products, all look-alike drugs, all alcoholic beverages, and any prescription or patient drugs that are administered not following the procedures outlined in Policy #5146, Student Use of Medication. The Board adopts the position that possession, use, sale, distribution or involvement with any controlled substance in the Wilson Area School District shall not be tolerated. In addition, the Board prohibits students from being under the influence of any controlled substance or alcohol during school hours, on school property, and at any school sponsored event.

School District personnel when responding to student use of drugs, mood altering or alcohol related substances shall implement the following guidelines and procedures.

1. Student Seeking Help
  - a. A student may approach any professional staff member to seek help. The staff member shall encourage the student to see the guidance counselor, school nurse or building principal.
  - b. Confidentiality of the student shall be maintained in accordance with the law.
  - c. Counselors, nurses or building principals shall offer drug and alcohol counseling as appropriate.
  - d. A student seeking help shall be encouraged to inform his or her parents before referral to an appropriate agency. Parental notification or consent prior to agency referral is not a prerequisite, but is strongly recommended.
  
2. Suspicion of Drug and/or Alcohol Involvement
  - a. Cases involving suspected drug or alcohol use or abuse shall be referred to the school nurse. The school nurse will treat all such cases as routine illnesses unless it is ascertained that there is a problem of drug or alcohol use or abuse.
  - b. The nurse will then notify the principal regarding the condition of the student. The principal will consult with the nurse and take appropriate action within

the guidelines, established in this policy and the policy on Students' Rights and Responsibilities.

3. Possession, Use, Sale, Distribution or Involvement
  - a. The possession, use, or involvement with drugs and/or alcohol in school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, and while under the authority of school officials shall be considered grounds for suspension and/or expulsion from school.
  - b. The sale or distribution of drugs and/or alcohol in school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, while under the authority of school officials, or repeated violation of section 3a of this Policy, will be considered grounds for expulsion from school.
  - c. Parents or guardians shall be promptly informed of actions taken by school officials in all incidents.
  - d. The school shall notify and cooperate with state/local law enforcement or regulatory agencies when appropriate.
  - e. Counseling assistance by appropriate agencies will be strongly recommended.
  
4. Drug Dog Use
  - a. Building principals are authorized to use the services offered by the local police departments when it is deemed necessary, including the use of drug dogs.
  - b. The principal or assistant in charge of the school can make a request for the drug-sniffing dog through the local police department.
  - c. The police department can request that the dog be used. The prior approval of the building principal will be required, but the visits of and use of the dog shall be unannounced to students.
  - d. The drug sniffing dog and the handler of this dog will be protected at all times from any type of verbal or physical abuse while performing their duties on Wilson Area School District property. Any type of violation of this, minor or serious, will be handled by the school administrators in a very severe manner.
  - e. In no way will this program infringe upon anyone's human rights or be used to enhance the arrest record of the police department.

Incidents of possession, use and sale of controlled substance, including alcohol, by any person on school property shall be reported annually to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form.

#### Anabolic Steroids

The Board prohibits the use of anabolic steroids by students involved in school related athletics, except for a valid medical purpose. Bodybuilding and muscle enhancement of athletic ability are not valid medical purposes. For the purpose of this policy, Human Growth Hormone (HGH) may only be taken by a student when prescribed by a licensed physician for growth stimulation due to underdevelopment.

Students shall be made aware of the dangers of steroids use, that anabolic steroids are classified as controlled substances, and that their use, unauthorized possession, acquisition, or distribution could subject students to suspension, expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

The following minimum penalties are prescribed for any student athlete found in violation of the prohibited use of anabolic steroids.

1. For a first violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season.
2. For a second violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season.
3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from school athletics.

No student shall be eligible to resume participation in school athletics unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of steroids exists. Participation in drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other program may be required as a condition of reinstatement into the athletic program.