

**WATERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
25 MESSALONSKEE AVE.
WATERVILLE, ME 04901**

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS POLICY

I. PHILOSOPHY

The Waterville Public School System is committed to developing and implementing programs related to the use and abuse of controlled and/or illegal substances. Recognizing that all students, faculty and staff may be adversely affected it is imperative that the Waterville Public Schools engage in a variety of activities and strategies designed to promote and/or model positive behaviors while educating all as to the adverse consequences associated with the inappropriate or illegal use of such substances. The Waterville Public School System is dedicated to providing a safe, healthy, productive learning environment free from alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances. Accomplishing this goal requires a cooperative effort among school staff, students, parents, law enforcement, and organizations concerned with the healthy development of all students entrusted into our care.

The Waterville Public School System actively promotes safety and wellness throughout our school system. The Waterville Public School System will assist students and parents to become more knowledgeable about the dangers associated with the use of various substances. To promote a quality-learning environment, the System endorses an approach to (1) prevent, discourage and eliminate drug use by students by addressing prevention by education, (2) intervene with an emphasis on assessment and treatment and (3) discipline.

II. POLICY

While on school property, while on a school sponsored activity or while that person's conduct directly interferes with the operation, welfare or educational environment of any school within the system, no student shall:

- possess, use or distribute cigarettes, chewing tobacco, "snuff" or other tobacco products
- illegally possess, use, distribute or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, or other intoxicating liquor
- possess, use, distribute or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, inhalants, drug paraphernalia, anabolic steroid, any other controlled substance, any look-alike substance that is represented to be a controlled substance.

Students involved with athletic or co-curricular activities refer also to Section VI.

It is not a violation for a student to be in the possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by any person legally authorized to prescribe drugs.

III. PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS

Students found to be in violation of this policy with respect to tobacco products shall be exposed to the following sanctions:

- First Offense:
- a. Any related materials will be confiscated,
 - b. Parents/guardians will be notified,
 - c. School Resource Officer or local law enforcement will be notified,
 - d. The school will provide student and parents/guardians with referral information regarding local tobacco cessation programs.
 - e. The student will be suspended for two schools days. The suspension will be reduced to one day of in-house suspension, if the student agrees to participate in an administrator approved education / cessation program.

For purposes of this policy, in- house suspension is defined as a one-on-one or small group setting where the student will have necessary academic support, along with education components about the risks of substance abuse, but will not be allowed to socialize with peers for the entire school day.

Second Offense:

- In addition to sanctions a., b., c., and d. listed above under First Offense there shall be added:
- e. The student will be suspended for four school days. The suspension will be reduced to two days of in-house suspension, if the student agrees to participate in an administrator approved education / cessation program.

Third Offense:

- In addition to sanctions a., b., c., and d. listed above under First Offense there shall be added:
- e. The student will be suspended for six school days. The suspension will be reduced to 4 days, if the student agrees to complete ten hours of community service. These hours shall not fulfill any additional requirements, graduation or otherwise.

Students found to be in violation of this policy with respect to alcohol or controlled or illegal substances shall be exposed to the following sanctions:

First Offense:

- a. Any related materials will be confiscated,
- b. Parents/guardians will be notified,
- c. School Resource Officer or local law enforcement will be notified,
- d. The student will be suspended for four school days. The suspension will be reduced to two days of in-house suspension, if the student agrees to participate in an administrator approved education / intervention program.

Second Offense:

In addition to sanctions a., b., c., and d. listed above under First Offense there shall be added
e. The student will be suspended for six school days. The suspension will be reduced to four days of in-house suspension, if the student can provide evidence or proof of having consulted with a health care provider, regarding the student's use or possession of the prohibited substance.

Third Offense:

In addition to sanctions a., b., c., and d. listed above under First Offense there shall be added:
e. The student will be suspended for ten school days. At the discretion of the Building Administrator, if the student provides evidence of having consulted with a health care provider regarding the student's current use of the prohibited substance, the suspension will be reduced to six days of in-house suspension if the student agrees to follow the recommendation of the health care provider and also agrees to complete twenty hours of community service. These hours shall not fulfill any additional requirements, graduation or otherwise.
f. The student will be referred to the Superintendent; under certain conditions, the Superintendent may request a more in-depth meeting with the student's parent or legal guardian and/or nurse or counselor. The Superintendent may set a re-entry plan that must be followed prior to the student returning to school,
g. The student and parents or legal guardian may be required to appear before the Waterville Board of Education for an expulsion hearing.

IV. REFERRAL PROCEDURES

The following procedures are intended to assist any student who may be affected directly or indirectly with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The students should feel safe coming forward with his/her concerns. All referrals will be processed through the School Nurse/Substance Abuse Counselor or designated staff member who will maintain confidentiality while providing assistance, help with community referrals to appropriate treatment/intervention programs, and be responsible for general education of students on the dangers associated with drug use.

Student Assistance is the goal. District staff needs to inform students that disclosing information about a peer is actually helpful. The important message is that it is not okay to use; but if someone needs help, it is safe to seek that help.

Self-referral:

- a. A student who believes that he or she has a substance abuse problem may contact the substance abuse counselor, school nurse, or other designated person to get help.
- b. A student may be referred by another student, parent, teacher, or administrator.

- c. A self-referral will not prevent disciplinary action based on a report from a source other than the student, which leads to the discovery of a violation.
- d. Self-referrals provide student assistance for a substance abuse problem.

Community Referral:

- a. Any reported violation of this policy from the community will be reported to the Principal for investigation.
- b. Any reported violation of this policy from the community will be reported to the substance abuse counselor, school nurse or other designated staff person for appropriate education, assessment and intervention; such referral will be made independent from any disciplinary investigation.

V. DISTRIBUTION OR SALE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS

Distribution or sale of alcohol, drugs or other controlled or illegal substance(s) will result in a referral to the Superintendent of School for appropriate action.

VI. CO/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Any student participating in any extra-curricular activities (athletic or non-athletic) shall not use, possess, buy, sell, or give away alcohol, tobacco products, marijuana, or any other substance defined by law as a drug or look-alike drug (regardless of the quantity). It is not a violation for a student to be in the possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by any person legally authorized to prescribe drugs.

Participants in all athletic or extra-curricular activities will follow the Waterville Public School procedures regarding signing contracts. Contracts will continue to be in effect throughout the student's first athletic or extra-curricular contract and will remain in effect throughout that academic year. If the student is not currently participating in an athletic activity at the time of the offense, any penalty will be served during the next athletic activity that the student participates in.

*Violations will be accumulated within one school such that when a student changes schools (s) he starts with a clean slate, except that sanctions from other schools currently being served will be enforced. Exceptions may be made for junior high students transitioning into Waterville Senior High School at the discretion of both junior high and Waterville Senior High School Administrators.

*Law enforcement will be notified of all illegal activity.

*The sanction applies to all activities in which the student is involved.

*Any athlete who is a team captain, found to be in violation of this policy, will lose their captain's position.

First Offense: (alcohol, marijuana, tobacco products and other drugs)

The student will be suspended from all activities athletic/non-athletic or both, whichever the case may be, for one calendar year from date of offense, unless the student agrees to:

Attend an administrator-approved program. Participation in the appropriate program will reduce their penalty to a 20% suspension for athletics and twenty hours of community service for non-athletic activities, half of which must be completed before participation of any public performance or activity.

For athletes, the 20% suspension will be defined as 20% of Maine Principals' Association (M.P.A.) countable games. The season ending banquet will be considered an M.P.A. countable game for purpose of serving a penalty but not for computation of the 20% penalty. Athletes may not return to any competition until the 20% M.P.A. game suspensions have been met. Students must agree, in writing, to attend the next scheduled administrator approved program. The 20% suspension must be served immediately. If the date of the next available administrator approved program is known and this date conflicts with scheduled games, adjustments may be made to the order of suspended games, so that the athlete is not penalized more than 20%. Athletes will be required to practice and travel with the team during this suspension but shall be out of uniform.

For non-athletics, the student must complete twenty hours of approved community service, half of which (ten hours) must be completed before any public performance.

EXAMPLE for athletic activities:

Varsity basketball has 18 countable games $\times .20 = 3.6$, or 4 games suspension (Round up or down to the nearest whole number.) A violation occurs before and two games of suspension are served then. During all subsequent Christmas tournament games the suspension is still active, thus, the athlete is still ineligible to participate. After Christmas break, the last two countable games are served and the game suspension is over.

Second Offense: (alcohol, marijuana, tobacco products and other drugs)

The student will be suspended from all activities athletic/non-athletic or both, whichever the case may be, for one calendar year from date of offense, unless the student agrees to:

- A. An evaluation from a health care provider, which will be paid for by the student-athlete or his/her parent or legal guardian. In cases of serious financial hardship to the student or the student's family, WPS may arrange for the evaluation at the schools expense. The student must follow the recommendation of the counselor.
- B. A Community service obligation of 45 hours. (This must be completed prior to regaining eligibility).
- C. Drug testing for the remainder of his/her career at WSHS. All tests will be paid for by the student-athlete or his/her parent or legal guardian. In cases of serious financial hardship to the student or the student's family, WPS may arrange for the testing at the schools expense.

Provided that steps A-C have been followed, the penalty will be reduced to 95 school days for all activities.

Third Offense: (alcohol, marijuana, tobacco products and other drugs)

The student will be suspended from all activities athletic/non-athletic or both, whichever the case may be, for the remainder of their career at the school the student attended at the time of the offense. After two calendar years, an appeal may be made to the Building Administration for reinstatement.

VII. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy shall be printed in student handbooks. Acknowledgment of review and an understanding of this policy shall be signed by parents/legal guardians on the emergency card and returned to the school where they shall be kept on file by the school unit. Tobacco free signs will be posted at all entrances of school buildings, school playgrounds and athletic fields and announcements of our drug free campus will be made at the beginning of each event.

ADOPTED: September 12, 1988; **REVISED:** October 5, 1992; **REVISED:** February 27, 1995; **REVISED:** February 5, 1996; **REVISED:** April 8, 1996; **REVISED:** January 30, 2004; **REVISED:** March 6, 2006. **REVISED:** October 16, 2006

REAFFIRMED: November 1, 2010

LEGAL REFERENCE: **Federal Law:** Pro-Children Act of 1994; **Maine Law:** 22 M.R.S.A. 1578-B; 22 M.R.S.A. 1551-1559;

SOURCE: Board Policy