

ILLEGAL/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE USE BY STUDENTS PROHIBITED

Purposes: To ensure the health, welfare and safety of all students, employees and other individuals in or on Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District (MRVTSD) property, and to ensure all students are aware that use and abuse of any substances that are illegal/controlled will not be tolerated in or on school property or during school-sanctioned activities at any time.

Rationale: Use and abuse of illegal/controlled substances are pervasive health issues with physical, emotional, social and legal implications that hinder students from reaching their full potential. Dependency on these substances affects not only the student, but their family, friends, the Monty Tech community, and all of our member communities. School employees have a responsibility to prevent where possible, and take action when necessary, to safeguard MRVTSD students, employees and associated individuals at MRVTS from this devastating and potentially fatal behavior.

Definitions:

- Consume – Take into the body by ingestion, inhalation, injection, absorption.
- Controlled substance – A chemical or product declared by federal or state law to be illegal for sale or use, but which may be dispensed under a physician's prescription.
- Drug paraphernalia - Any device that can be used to plant, grow, manufacture, compound, produce, analyze, pack, store, contain, conceal, or administer any controlled substance by ingestion, inhalation, injection or absorption.
- Illegal substance – Any chemical or product prohibited by law due to classification (as in, but not limited to, prescription drugs prescribed to another) or prohibited by law (as in, but not limited to smoking on school property), or prohibited by law due to age (as in, but not limited to, alcohol and tobacco products).
- Individual(s) – Person(s), neither student(s) nor employee(s), in or on MRTVS property or at MRTVS sanctioned events, as in (but not limited to) parents, siblings, school committee members, visiting adults or children, facility renters, consultants and delivery/transportation personnel.
- Possession – The state of having, owning or controlling something (in the case of this policy, body/mind altering, controlled or illegal substances and/or drug paraphernalia).
- Under the influence – The inability to think and act with ordinary care when faculties are impaired due to consumption of body/mind-altering substances.

- (Substance) Abuse – Illegal use and/or overindulgence in/of an addictive substance (such as, but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco and drugs).

Policy:

1. The School Committee prohibits the possession, use or consumption by students of any illegal or controlled substance, except under conditions specifically allowed in policy JLCD Administration of Drugs.
2. A student shall not, regardless of quantity, possess, use or consume, buy, sell, or give away any illegal/controlled substance (including, but not limited to, beverages containing alcohol, any tobacco product, any components of vapor/E-cigarettes; marijuana in any form, steroids, drug paraphernalia or prescription medications) except under conditions specifically allowed in policy JLCD Administration of Drugs.
3. Any student found to be in possession of, or believed to be under the influence of illegal/controlled substances prior to, while in attendance, or during participation in any school-sanctioned activity, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including the maximum punishment permissible by law.
4. This policy shall be posted on the MRVTS website and notice provided to all students and parents in accordance with state law.
5. This policy shall be filed with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in accordance with law, in the manner requested by DESE.

SOURCES: MASC suggested JICH 2016; MRVTS ADB Illegal/Controlled Substance-Free Schools

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:2A; M.G.L. 71.96; M.G.L. 272:40A

CROSS REFS: ADB Illegal/Controlled Substance-Free Schools; BIDDVA Vehicle Use; IHAMB Teaching About Illegal/Controlled Substances; JLCD Administration of Drugs to Students; GBEC Drug-Free Workplace

ORIGINAL ADOPTION: 2016 10 18

REVIEWED/REVISED: 2017 04 25