

Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Policy # 5175C [Required]
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It is the policy of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District that no student shall knowingly be in the presence of, possess, use, sell, give or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any illegal drug, regulated substance, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia or mind/behavior altering substance on any school property, or at any school sponsored activity.

1. Definitions

a. **Drug(s)** as used in this policy includes any narcotic substance, hallucinogenic substance, any substance taken for the purpose of "getting high", and all chemical and controlled substances as defined by State or federal law, including, but not limited to, those described and/or listed in the schedules in the federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. (812 (or successor statutes). Such drugs include, but are not limited to, substances commonly known as marijuana, LSD, cocaine, crack, heroin, amphetamine and methamphetamine, and barbiturates. The term "drug(s)" also includes all prescription medicines, except when used or possessed in accordance with the school prescription medication policy. (See: Policy 5176C)

b. **Alcohol and drug abuse** is defined as "the ingestion of a substance in such a way that it interferes with a person's ability to perform physically, intellectually, emotionally or socially." (VT Dept. of Ed. Reg #4211)

2. Statements of Purpose

a. **Educational Programs:** The Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District recognizes that all students have a right to receive an appropriate education in an alcohol free and drug free environment. Therefore, the Regional Governing Board will encourage educational programs that provide every student with an understanding of the physical, psychological, social and legal dangers associated with substance abuse in accordance with the K-12 Health curriculum as defined by the State K-12 Curriculum Plan.

b. **Prevention Education and Intervention:** Alcohol and drug abuse dependency are treatable health problems that are primarily the responsibility of the home and the community. The CDC shares this responsibility in the areas of prevention (education) and intervention (identification and referral) by providing a system for support and referral for students involved with alcohol or drug use on school property or at school functions due to their own or another(s) uses of alcohol or other drug.

Additionally the Board believes that the community and schools share in this responsibility because chemical problems interfere with behavior, learning, and the fullest possible development of each student.

c. Enforcement: Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action following the accompanying Administrative Regulations and Policy 5050C.

d. Students with Disabilities: If a student with a disability under the IDEA or Section 504 violates this policy, the Administration shall refer to Vermont Department of Education Special Education Regulations Section 4312 - Long-term Suspension or Expulsion of Students with a Disability or Students who are Disabled According to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Legal References:

Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. §812

VT Dept. of Ed. Reg. #4211

	Date Drafted	Date Warned	Date Adopted
Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District.	5/21/07	8/20/07	9/17/07

POLICY #5175C

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

School personnel shall observe and report inappropriate behavior, poor class performance, tardiness, absenteeism, or physical changes in any student to the Assistant Director and/or the Superintendent/Director.

Any teacher or other school staff member who suspects a student in demonstrating symptoms of possible drug / alcohol use (staggering, slurred speech, incoherence, dazed appearance, inability to respond, vomiting, unconsciousness) shall immediately refer the student to the appropriate administrator who may treat the situation as a medical event, evaluate the student and bring them to the nurses office for a drug/alcohol screening or consult with a member of law enforcement on duty.

Should the school nurse and/or a member of law enforcement determine the student's symptoms are drug / alcohol related or if s/he is unable to function normally, the school administration shall take appropriate action which may include notifying the parent or guardian, referring the student medical care, and/or making referrals to law enforcement. If drug/alcohol use is confirmed, the student will be suspended. (see below)

In coordination with the students home (sending) school, shall refer students to programs that help to assess implications of the use of addictive substances, such as drugs and alcohol, and help students to understand the personal and social implications of abuse of these substances.

When there is evidence of use, illegal transmitting, or possession of drugs, including alcohol, during school hours or at any school-sponsored activity, the student will be advised of the policy, the police summoned, and the parent or guardian shall be asked to meet with the school administration and/or other appropriate members of the school staff. (Teachers, Clinicians, Councilors) The student will be suspended. (See below)

If a student is caught in possession, use, distribution, or selling of drug paraphernalia, the director or his/her designee will confiscate the drug paraphernalia, summon the police, and notify the parent or guardian. The student will be suspended. (See below)

On school vehicles en route to and from school or any school-sponsored event, drivers will report any inappropriate or bizarre behavior, which might indicate potential drug or alcohol use or possession to the CDC main office as soon as reasonably possible. The CDC office shall then notify the appropriate building administrator.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

First offense:

a. A student who possesses, is in the presence, distributes, attempts to distribute or sells of or uses any controlled substance (including alcohol) will receive *out of school suspension for a period (minimum) of five days* where the student will continue to receive work from their respective high school and receive counseling from the sending school-student assistance/guidance counselor.

b. Students and parents must attend a reinstatement conference, which will be attended by the administration, counselor, and other staff that may be requested to attend by administration

5175C Administrative Regulations/Procedures (cont.)

Second offense: The procedure for dealing with students found to be in violation of the chemical use or possession policy for a second time is:

b. A student who possesses, is in presence of, distributes, attempts to distribute or sells any controlled substance will receive OSS and be removed from the general population for a period of up to 10 days where the student will continue to do school work and receive counseling from the students sending school counselor.

c. Students and parents must attend a reinstatement conference, which will be attended by administration, school counselor, and other staff that may be requested by the administration to attend.

e. The student will be required to complete an alcohol or drug assessment, this assessment will be offered by a qualified school drug counselor at no cost to the family, or, should the family desire, they may have the assessment completed by a certified counselor, at their expense. Upon completion of the assessment, the counselor, student assistant counselor, parent, and the student will develop a plan to address the concerns outlined in the assessment.

Third offense: Students found in violation of the substance abuse policy on the third offense will appear before the next regular meeting of the SVRTSD board for possible expulsion from the school under Section 12, Title 16, VSA.

A student, who consumes a controlled substance or comes to school under the influence of a controlled substance, will be subject to the same procedures as outlined above.

A student may be subject to additional sanctions by their home sending school. Those additional disciplinary measures are at the discretion of the home sending school administration and will be supported by the SVCDC.

**Cross-referenced policies(s): 5050C – Discipline of Students, Suspension/Expulsion
5085C – Search and Seizure**