

1:0 **STUDENTS - DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY**

2:0 **POLICY STATEMENT**

2:1 The philosophy of the Fairhaven School Committee is to foster and to assist the intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of each student. In order to fulfill this philosophy, the Fairhaven School Committee recognizes that it is in the best interest of the community for it to continue to promote, enhance, and maintain a drug-free school system and student body, and that along with the parents and other segments of the community, it has a role to play in helping individuals remain drug free.

The Fairhaven School Committee recognizes that the use of alcohol and other drugs and the problems associated with it are becoming increasingly commonplace in our society and among youth. The physical and psychological dependence on chemicals creates health and safety problems for not only the student using the substance, but for each and every student in that school setting, and is counter-productive to the goals of education.

Therefore, the Fairhaven School Committee cannot and will not tolerate the use of prohibited and/or illegal substances by students in the school setting or at school sponsored functions. The Fairhaven Public Schools will respond immediately when circumstances of substance use arise.

The Fairhaven School Committee recognizes the important strategies essential to the reduction and control of substance use:

1. Prevention - Educational programs for students.
2. Intervention/Treatment - Personal counseling and referral assistance.
3. Enforcement - Application of school disciplinary measures and legal action as required by law.
4. After Care - A prescribed plan of action for maintaining a chemical free lifestyle. See Sections 6:1.4 and 6:1.5

3:0 **DRUG & ALCOHOL OFFENSES**

3:1 Any possession, dispensing, or being under the influence of drugs/alcohol must be reported to the Principal. Any drugs/alcohol found on the school premises must be reported and turned over to the Principal, or his/her designee.

3:2 In the case of apparent drug/alcohol violations, the parents of the offending student will be notified by the Principal, or his/her designee, by telephone and certified mail.

3:3 In the case where a student is found to be in possession of an illegal substance, the Principal shall notify the local police immediately. School authorities shall cooperate fully with the police officials.

4:0 PROCEDURES

- 4:1 The Principal shall report all instances of drugs/alcohol related offenses to the Superintendent of Schools and police authorities before the next school day and maintain a log of these offenses noting: Date, Student Name, Grade, Sex, brief description of the offense, action taken, and other comments. The school will report names of students only in cases where the drug/alcohol violation involved illegal activity; i.e., possession of illegal substance and/or intent to sell or distribute.
- 4:2 All drug/alcohol abuse-related violations shall be reported to the school nurse. The nurse shall examine these students and advise the principal concerning his/her findings.
- 4:3 Any student who has been expelled pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 37H shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent.

5:0 DEFINITION OF OFFENSES

- 5:1 **DRUGS** - Possession of drugs and/or drug-related equipment, and/or dispensing or being under the influence of drugs.
- 5:2 **ALCOHOL** - Possession of alcohol and/or dispensing or being under the influence of alcohol.

6:0 DEFINITION OF TERMS

- 6:1 SUSPENSION – Removal of a student from regular school activities for ten (10) school days or less.
- 6:2 EXCLUSION – Removal of a student from regular school activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or until an appearance before the School Committee. Student may be eligible to return to school.
- 6:3 EXPULSION – Permanent exclusion, student is not eligible to return to school.

7:0 SANCTIONS - High School Students - Grades 9-12 - As per Education Reform

- 7:1 The consequences of a first offense shall be:
- 7:1.1 Up to ten (10) days suspension.
- 7:1.2 Appearance before the Principal for a disciplinary hearing which may include expulsion.
- 7:1.3 Probation for one full term. (Ten (10) calendar weeks commencing at the date of the offense.)

- 7:1.4 Prior to returning to school after suspension for drug/alcohol offenses regardless of the amount, a student, his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall meet with the principal, counselor, and/or psychologist and other appropriate personnel to determine a plan to bring about improved behavior (which may include entry into a substance abuse treatment program).
- 7:1.5 The student shall be required to meet weekly with his/her counselor.
- 7:2 The consequences for subsequent offenses shall be:
- 7:2.1 Ten (10) days suspension with the Superintendent's approval.
- 7:2.2 Recommendation for expulsion by the Principal.
- 7:2.3 Probation for one full term. (Ten (10) calendar weeks commencing at the date of the offense.)
- 7:2.4 Prior to returning to school after suspension for drugs/alcohol offenses regardless of the amount, a student, his/her parent(s), guardian(s) shall meet with the principal, counselor, and/or psychologist and other appropriate personnel to determine plan to bring about improved behavior (which may include entry into a drug/alcohol rehabilitation program).
- 7:2.5 The student shall be required to meet weekly with his/her counselor.
- 7:3 It is the policy of Fairhaven Public Schools that any student affected by these sanctions shall have the opportunity to make up missed work in accordance with school policy.
- 8:0 SANCTIONS - Middle School Students - Grades 6-8**
- 8:1 The consequences of a first offense shall be:
- 8:1.1 Up to ten (10) days suspension or until appearance before the School Committee.
- 8:1.2 Appearance before the School Committee for a disciplinary hearing which may include exclusion and/or expulsion.
- 8:1.3 Probation for one full term. (Ten (10) calendar weeks commencing at the date of the offense.)
- 8:1.4 Prior to returning to school after suspension for drugs/alcohol offenses regardless of the amount, a student, his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall meet with the principal, counselor, and/or psychologist and other appropriate personnel to determine a plan to bring about improved behavior (which may include entry into a substance abuse treatment program).

8:1.5 The student shall be required to meet weekly with his/her counselor.

8:2 The consequences for subsequent offenses shall be:

8:2.1 Ten days suspension with the Superintendent's approval.

8:2.2 Immediate referral to the School Committee with a possible recommendation for exclusion.

8:2.3 Prior to returning to school after suspension for drugs/alcohol offenses regardless of the amount, a student, his/her parent(s), guardian(s) shall meet with the principal, counselor, and/or psychologist and other appropriate personnel to determine plan to bring about improved behavior (which may include entry into a substance abuse treatment program).

8:2.4 The student shall be required to meet weekly with his/her counselor.

8:3 It is the policy of Fairhaven Public Schools that any student affected by these sanctions shall have the opportunity to make up missed work in accordance with school policy.

9:0 **SANCTIONS - Elementary School Students - Grades K-5**

9:1 If an elementary school student is under the influence of, or is in the possession of an illegal substance (drugs and alcohol), or where there is reason to believe that there is intent to sell or distribute, the child and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be required to meet with the building principal.

9:2 A hearing with the building principal will be held to determine appropriate interventions and sanctions on an individual basis.

9:3 If deemed appropriate the Superintendent may be requested to schedule a hearing before the School Committee.

9:4 The consequences for a first offense shall be:

9:4.1 A suspension for a minimum of one day.

9:4.2 Upon the child's return to school, the student, his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall meet with the principal, psychologist and/or other appropriate support personnel to determine a plan to deal with the individual child's behavior. The building team will continue to monitor the student's progress.

9:5 The consequences for a subsequent offense may be:

9:5.1 A suspension for a minimum of two days.

9:5.2 Upon the child's return to school, the student, his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall meet with the principal, psychologist and/or other appropriate support personnel to determine a plan to deal with the individual child's behavior. The building team will continue to monitor the student's progress.

10:0 PROBATION

10:1 As it applies to this Policy, Sections 7:1.3 and 7:2.3, will prohibit a student from:

10:1.1 Parking on school grounds.

10:1.2 Having his/her car driven to school and parked on school grounds.

10:1.3 Attending activities sponsored by the school:

- a. all school dances including proms
- b. all athletic events as a spectator
- c. athletic events and practices as a team member
- d. all extra curricular school sponsored clubs, organizations, and memberships including band, chorus, etc.

10:1.4 Being on school grounds after school for any reason except authorized make-up work, detention, or other school activity.

10:2 Violation of probation for any reason will result in disciplinary action or exclusion at the discretion of the principal.

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