



Renaissance Academy

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Drug and Alcohol Usage

1 PURPOSE

The Renaissance Academy Board of School Trustees has established a policy to address drugs and alcohol on school property. This policy, including its rules, regulations, and guidelines, is an effort by the Renaissance Academy School Board to respond openly and effectively to the potential uses and abuses of drugs, alcohol, and mood altering substances by students. Renaissance Academy will strive to educate, prevent, and intervene in the use and abuse of all drug, alcohol and mood altering substances by students.

All school personnel shall use the accompanying regulations/procedures, and guidelines when situations involve students' unlawful use, abuse, sale, distribution and/or possession of drugs, alcohol, and any mood altering substance or paraphernalia. The Principal or designee, consistent with State and Federal law, is authorized to prevent any person who possesses or attempts to distribute or is under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or mood altering substances from entering Renaissance Academy.

Consistent with State and federal law, any student on school premises with drugs, alcohol or mood altering substances shall be subject to immediate exclusion from school premises. The jurisdiction of school premises would include but is not limited to the following:

- (1) On or in close proximity to any property owned, leased by or under the control of Renaissance Academy, including vehicles used for the transportation of students;
- (2) During normal school hours, including recess, lunch and class changes, and summer school;
- (3) At any school-sponsored or sanctioned activity or event away from or within the school campus.

In the event that this policy has been violated, this information will be shared with the appropriate law enforcement agency

2 DEFINITIONS

The elements encompassed in this policy include, but are not limited to, the following:

MOOD-ALTERING CHEMICAL

Includes, without limitation, alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, ecstasy or other club drugs, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, narcotics, over-the-counter medications (including any over-the-counter pain medications containing aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or any other pain relievers, any cough or cold medications, etc), substances such as White Out, glue, toxic markers used outside of its intended purpose and caffeine pills. Prescription drugs are included in this, unless authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container that states the student's name and directions for proper use, according to school policy.

TOBACCO

Includes any product containing tobacco or nicotine that is smoked, chewed, inhaled or placed against the gums.

DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

Includes, but is not limited to, instruments such as pipes, roach clips, syringes, pacifiers, hypodermic needles, cocaine spoons or kits, nitrous oxide paraphernalia, rolling papers, water pipes and any other items normally or actually used for the packaging, conveyance, dispensation or use of mood-altering substances will not be permitted on school property and will be confiscated for surrender to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Possession of drug paraphernalia will be treated the same as possession of a mood-altering substance. Addiction to an illegal substance may not be used as an excuse for a violation.

ALCOHOL

Alcoholic beverages including, but not limited to, beer, wine, liquor and any beverage subject to the control and jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board and any substance containing ethyl alcohol to the extent that it can impair judgment or function if taken in sufficient quantities.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Buildings, facilities and grounds on Renaissance Academy campus, school bus, school bus stop, school parking area, and any facility being used for a school function or school sponsored trip. In addition, students shall be considered under the control of this policy while they are traveling to and from school.

PARKING PRIVILEGES

The privilege of driving to and from school and parking a motor vehicle on school property granted to students, after having been issued a parking permit from the building administration.

3 AUTHORITY

SC 510, 511 Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Section I. Conduct Prohibited:

All Students - The Board prohibits any student from possessing, distributing, selling, using or being under the influence of any drug or alcohol while on school district property, while in school vehicles or vehicles leased by the district, including school district contracted or chartered buses, and while at school activities or at any school-sponsored function.

4 GUIDELINES

USE OF MEDICATION

The Board realizes that there will be times when it is necessary for a student to be administered medication on school premises. To specify the conditions and circumstances under which medication shall be administered in school and during school-sponsored activities, the following guidelines have been established:

The school will not be responsible for the diagnosis of a pupil's illness. In rare instances, a student may be allowed to carry certain prescription medications (e.g. asthma inhalers). If the physician deems it medically necessary for the student to carry medication with him or her, the physician will note this on the required form. In accordance with written permission of the parent/guardian and with the written direction of the treating physician, the administration or self-administration of medication to or by a student during school hours, including school sponsored activities such as field trips, extracurricular activities and athletic events (participants only) will be permitted only when:

1. Failure to take such medication would jeopardize the health of the pupil,
2. The pupil would not be able to attend school if the medication were not made available during regular school hours, and
3. The prescribed medication does not exceed the usual recommended dose as listed in the Physicians' Desk Reference except when the reason for the exceptional dose is reviewed and approved in writing by the student's physician or Renaissance Academy's consulting physician and the parent/guardian provides a written release.

For life threatening situations indicating incipient anaphylactic shock, trained staff shall be authorized to administer prescribed Epi-Pen. With documentation in the office of the school nurse, this type of life sustaining substance may be carried on the student. In other life threatening situations, similar appropriate life sustaining measures will be administered. The principal or designee shall designate the procedures to be followed, including training of staff, forms to be completed in advance by the parent/guardian and a procedure for emergency administration of the medication.

SEARCHES

Consistent with State and Federal Law, any student about whom the Principal or designee has reasonable individualized suspicion to believe possesses drugs, alcohol or mood altering substances while on school premises shall be subject to a reasonable search. In the event that this policy has been violated, information regarding this search shall be shared with the appropriate law enforcement agency.

If the school official has reason to believe that mood-altering or controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or instruments are concealed in a school locker, on a student, in a purse, wallet, book bag or in a student's vehicle, the following applies:

GENERAL

The principal or designee may search a student or any other person under school jurisdiction. Such search may extend to an individual's clothes, handbag, wallet, desk, locker, car, or other possessions if reasonable grounds exist for suspecting the presence of alcohol, a drug, a mood altering substance, or drug paraphernalia.

LOCKER SEARCH

As school lockers and desks are school property loaned to a student for the student's convenience, school authorities may search lockers and desks without prior warning. The normal procedure is for the Principal or designee to accompany the student to his locker and require the youth to show the official the contents. A second staff person will observe the search.

PERSONAL SEARCHES

The Principal or designee with reasonable suspicion that this policy is violated shall have the authority to require students or other persons under school jurisdiction to submit to a reasonable search of his or her clothing and personal effects. If any search is to be conducted of a student's person, such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official in the presence of an adult witness of the same sex as the student. The person conducting the search shall confiscate any alcohol, drugs, mood altering substance, drug paraphernalia or contraband revealed by the search in the event that this policy has been violated information regarding this search will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The parent/guardian of the student being searched shall be notified within a reasonable time frame.

STUDENT VEHICLE

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of the student parking lot and inspections of the exteriors of student automobiles on school premises. The interiors of student vehicles may be inspected whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside. Such patrols and inspection may be conducted without notice, without student consent and without a search warrant.

COOPERATION

If a student refuses to cooperate with a search conducted in accordance with these guidelines, such refusal shall constitute further grounds for exclusion from school.

POLICY VIOLATION

This policy is violated when any student, visitor, or guest unlawfully manufactures, uses, abuses, possesses, constructively possesses, distributes, or attempts to distribute drugs, alcohol, or any mood altering substances, or drug paraphernalia on school premises, or at any school sponsored activity anywhere, or while traveling to and from school or school related activities, or who conspires, aids, or abets the use, abuse, active possession, constructive possession, or distribution of drugs, alcohol, or any mood altering substances.

Enforcement

1. The principal or designee will be immediately notified.
2. The principal or designee will meet with the student who will explain the circumstances related to a possible policy violation.
3. The principal or designee will notify the local authorities for appropriate investigation and disposition.
4. The principal or designee will notify the student's parent/guardian concerning the incident.
5. The student may be sent home or removed from the school to receive medical attention if required. When parent(s)/guardian(s) cannot be reached, the principal

- or designee will decide to obtain medical treatment for the student or to temporarily isolate the student.
6. Exclusions from school.
 7. Formal Hearings with the Renaissance Academy Board of School Trustees.
 8. Additional Requirements.

Nothing in this policy is designed to prevent the administration of first aid to a student without the express written permission of a parent where deemed necessary by a nurse pursuant to his/her professional judgment.