

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD POLICY NO. 5131.6

ADOPTED: 2/24/97

CLASSIFICATION: Students

**REVISED: 3/24/03
8/24/09**

SUBJECT: Alcohol and Other Drugs

STUDENTS

The Board believes that the use of alcohol or other drugs adversely affects a student's ability to achieve academic success, is physically and emotionally harmful, and has serious social and legal consequences. The Board desires to keep VCOE schools free of alcohol and other drugs in order to help prevent violence, promote school safety and create a well-disciplined environment conducive to learning.

VCOE's program shall be scientifically based and designed to prevent or reduce alcohol or other drug use and the possession and distribution of illegal drugs. It shall include primary prevention activities such as decision-making skills and conflict management, instruction, referral to a rehabilitation program, enforcement/discipline, activities that promote the involvement of parents/guardians and coordination with appropriate community agencies and organizations.

The Superintendent shall clearly communicate to students, staff and parents/guardians all Board policies, regulations, procedures and school rules related to the use of alcohol and other drugs on school campuses or at school activities. Information about program needs and goals shall be widely distributed in the community. Special efforts shall be made to ensure that these materials are understood by parents/guardians and students of limited literacy or limited English proficiency.

The Board and Superintendent shall agree upon performance measures that will be used to monitor and determine the effectiveness of VCOE's program in reducing drug and alcohol use. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an evaluation process that includes ongoing assessment and analysis of objective data regarding the incidence of drug and alcohol use among VCOE students, including discipline problems, and the prevalence of risk factors.

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with principals, teachers, other school personnel, students and parents/guardians when developing VCOE's program.

INSTRUCTION

The Board encourages the establishment of site-level advisory groups to assist in promoting alcohol- and drug-free schools. VCOE shall provide science-based preventative instruction which has been proven effective in helping students avoid the use of alcohol and other drugs. All instruction and related materials shall consistently state that unlawful use of alcohol or other drugs is wrong and harmful. Instruction shall not include the concept of responsible use of drugs or alcohol when such use is illegal.

VCOE shall offer staff development activities for staff who implement the comprehensive drug and alcohol prevention and intervention program.

INTERVENTION/REFERRAL AND STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Board supports intervention programs that include the involvement of students, parents/guardians and community agencies/organizations. The Board strongly encourages any student who is using alcohol or drugs to discuss the matter with his/her parent/guardian or with any staff member. Students who disclose their use of alcohol or other drugs when seeking help from an intervention or recovery program shall not be disciplined for such use.

The responsibilities of staff in working with, intervening, and reporting students suspected of alcohol and other drug use shall be clearly defined in administrative regulations. School staff, students and parents/guardians shall be informed about early warning signs which may indicate alcohol and other drug use and about appropriate agencies offering intervention programs, counseling, referral and other student assistance programs.

Administrative regulations shall also identify the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement staff as reflected in procedures which the county and law enforcement agency have established for the coordinated alcohol and drug prevention intervention system. Law enforcement staff shall receive copies of all Board policies, regulations, procedures and school rules related to this program.

EVALUATION

A program will be established to evaluate the results of the instructional and intervention programs.

RECOVERING STUDENT SUPPORT

The Board recognizes the presence of recovering students in the schools and the necessity to support these students in avoiding reinvolvement with alcohol and other drugs. The Board shall provide ongoing school activities which enhance recovery.

ENFORCEMENT/DISCIPLINE

The Superintendent shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or sale of alcohol and other drugs and related paraphernalia on school grounds, at school events, or in any situation in which the school is responsible for the conduct and well-being of students. Students possessing, selling and/or using alcohol or other drugs or related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension or expulsion.

School authorities may search students and school properties for the possession of alcohol and other drugs as long as such searches are conducted in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

In addition, such students may be referred to an appropriate counseling program, transferred to an alternative placement, and/or be restricted from extracurricular activities, including athletics.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

44049	Known or suspected alcohol or controlled substance abuse by student
48900	Suspension or expulsion (grounds)
48900.5	Suspension, limitation or imposition; exception
48901	Smoking or use of tobacco prohibited
48901.5	Prohibition of electronic signaling devices
48902	Notification of law enforcement authorities; civil or criminal immunity
48909	Narcotics or other hallucinogenic drugs
48915	Expulsion
49423	Administration of prescribed medication
49480	Notice to school by parent or guardian; consultation with physician
49602	Confidentiality of pupil information
51202	Instruction in personal and public health and safety
51203	Instruction in alcohol, narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs
51210	Areas of study
51220	Areas of study, grades 7 to 12
51260	Elementary and secondary school instruction in drug education by appropriately trained instructors
51262	Use of anabolic steroids; legislative finding and declaration
51264	SDE assistance for inservice training
51265	Gang violence and drug and alcohol abuse prevention inservice

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

11032	Narcotics, restricted dangerous drugs and marijuana; construction of terms used in other divisions
11053	Controlled substances
11353.6	Juvenile drug Trafficking and Schoolyard Act
11357	Unauthorized possession of marijuana; punishment; prior conviction; possession in school or on school grounds
11361.5	Destruction of arrest or conviction records
11372.7	Drug program fund; uses
11802	Joint school-community alcohol abuse primary education and prevention program
11965-11969.5	The School-Community Primary Prevention Program
11998-11998.3	Drug and Alcohol Abuse Master Plans
11999-11999.3	Alcohol and drug program funding; no unlawful use

PENAL CODE

13864	Comprehensive alcohol and drug prevention education
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VEHICLE CODE

13202.5	Drug and alcohol related offenses by person under age of 21, but aged 13 or over; suspension, delay, or restriction of driving privileges
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WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

828	Disclosure of information re minors
828.1	Disclosure of criminal records; protection of vulnerable staff & students