

STUDENT DRUGS & ALCOHOL POLICY

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I. PURPOSE

Consistent with state and federal laws, Thetford Academy's commitment to wellness includes a learning environment free of drugs and alcohol. Thetford Academy also affirms that it is the collective responsibility of the school, along with families and the community, to work to achieve this goal. Drug and alcohol use and abuse are detrimental to the users themselves, the education of other students, and the entire school community. However, drug and alcohol use, abuse, and dependency are treatable health problems. Thetford Academy is committed to a climate in which students can seek help concerning their own or another's use of drugs and/or alcohol. The school assumes responsibility for providing preventive education to all students, as well as interventions (identification, in-house support, and referral) and appropriate disciplinary actions for students determined to need help.

II. DEFINITIONS

Alcohol:

Any alcohol, spirits, or malt beverages as defined by state or federal regulation or statute, including but not limited to beer, porter, stout, ale, wines, cordials, and liquors. Alcohol may also include medicinal products such as Listerine and Nyquil which contain high percentages of alcohol.

Drugs:

Any controlled substances as defined by state or federal regulation or statute, including but not limited to cannabis (marijuana, hash), hallucinogens (LSD, psilocybin mushrooms, peyote, mescaline), stimulants (cocaine, amphetamines – e.g., ritalin), depressants (barbiturates, "quaaludes"), narcotics (opium, heroin, morphine), nitrous oxide, and anabolic steroids.

Substance Abuse:

The ingestion of drugs and/or alcohol in such a way that it interferes with a person's ability to perform physically, intellectually, emotionally, or socially; and/or the illegal use of these substances.

Treatment:

A therapeutic process defined by a written individual treatment plan under the supervision of a physician, licensed mental health provider or licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

III. POLICY

It is the policy of Thetford Academy that no student shall knowingly possess, use, sell, give or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any illegal drug, regulated substance, or

alcohol on any school property, or at any school-sponsored activity away from or within the school. Similarly, the use of performance-enhancing drugs by Thetford Academy athletes is prohibited.

If a student is using a product containing alcohol for medicinal purposes, the medicinal purpose must be reported by a parent/guardian to the school nurse and the product kept by the nurse during school hours.

If a student is using a drug for medical purposes, and is under the supervision of a licensed healthcare provider, and if this medication is to be taken at school, the student's parent/guardian must notify the school nurse and the nurse must dispense the medication, unless indicated in writing by the licensed healthcare provider that the student may carry the medication with him/her.

It is further the policy of Thetford Academy that the school shall take on the following roles:

- Educating students about alcohol and other drugs through age-appropriate programs.
- Responding in a supportive manner to those whose use of alcohol and/or other drugs interferes with school performance.
- Promoting a climate in which students can seek help if they are in distress from their own or others' use of alcohol and/or other drugs.
- Supporting students recovering from dependency on or abuse of alcohol and/or other drugs.
- Developing and implementing school procedures regarding drugs and alcohol which:
 - define violations and their consequences, both supportive and disciplinary.
 - define the process for handling incidents and emergencies.
 - describe the support and referral system, including the response to self-referrals and suspected alcohol/other-drug users.
 - ensure all personnel are trained in school procedures regarding drugs and alcohol.

IV. COMPONENTS OF POLICY

A. Education and Prevention

The school's primary function is to educate its students. All Thetford Academy students shall receive comprehensive health education which includes information about drug and alcohol use and abuse. The goal is to provide students with the knowledge and ability to develop skills necessary to make responsible choices.

The Head of School shall work with school personnel to create and conduct appropriate programming, which shall include the development and periodic revision of the following:

1. A coordinated alcohol and drug curriculum consistent with the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Education Curriculum Plan, which details the specific objectives to be taught in middle and high school.

2. Training for all personnel in school procedures related to alcohol and other drugs.
3. Provision of alcohol- and drug-related information to parents/guardians and community members via the school website, parent informational forums and other methods.

B. Support and Referral for Students Experiencing Alcohol and/or Drug Problems

1. Suspected Use

Thetford Academy is committed to supporting students who may be using, abusing or dependent on alcohol and/or drugs. The purpose of this support is to help students deal with their problems so that they can succeed in school.

The Dean of Students, in consultation with the Head of School and other appropriate school personnel, and in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws, shall develop and implement the following to address situations of suspected use of drugs and/or alcohol by students:

- a. Rules for school personnel regarding employees' obligation to report the knowledge or suspicion of a student's violation of the Student Drugs & Alcohol Policy.
- b. Procedures for the Dean of Students and/or Student Support Team to follow after receiving a referral regarding a student's suspected use of drugs and/or alcohol.
- c. A mechanism whereby any member of the school community may confidentially share a concern about a student's involvement with drugs and/or alcohol. Notice of this mechanism shall, at a minimum, be communicated to the school community by inclusion in the Student and Family Handbook.

2. Self-Referral or Parental Referral

When a student or her/his parent/guardian recognizes that the student may have a problem with alcohol and/or other drugs and chooses to address this problem, the school will cooperate as fully as possible. The school shall support the student to the extent that it can without jeopardizing other students. Confidentiality shall be maintained in all interactions regarding the implementation of this policy. Self-referral or parental referral does not negate the possibility of future disciplinary action if a student violates the Student Drugs & Alcohol Policy.

3. Students in Recovery

Students who enter substance-abuse treatment programs during the school year are encouraged to remain enrolled in school. While the school is not financially responsible for a student's education while s/he is a patient at a residential facility, the

school shall cooperate as fully as possible in assisting the student's efforts to remain current with and receive credit for academic courses.

4. Cooperative Agreement with Treatment Providers/Agencies

The school shall maintain a referral agreement with Vermont State Approved Treatment Agencies. This agreement shall specify referral and intake procedures, financial obligations of parents/guardians and the lack thereof for the school, and confidentiality of information. Contacts with other treatment providers shall also be initiated as needed.

C. Violations of This Policy and Consequences for Violations

The Dean of Students, in consultation with the Head of School and in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws, shall develop and implement school rules and procedures which accomplish the following:

1. Define clearly what constitutes violations of the Student Drugs & Alcohol Policy.
2. Define clearly the typical consequences for violations of the Student Drugs & Alcohol Policy.
 - The consequences for all violations shall be twofold: disciplinary and rehabilitative/educational.
 - Under Vermont State Rules, a student may be immediately suspended whenever his/her conduct is deemed to be an immediate threat to him/herself, others, property, or the school environment. Students who are suspended for violating the Student Drugs & Alcohol Policy may, at the discretion of the school administration, continue to receive educational services deemed to be in the best interest of the student.
 - Any disciplinary action shall afford the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian the opportunity for a hearing before an appropriately-designated school official. This hearing shall comply with the requirements of all due-process rights. Following the hearing, the school official shall provide the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian with a written decision which includes the consequences and recommendations.
 - When disciplining students with disabilities or those suspected of having a disability, the school shall comply with all state and federal laws. A member of the student's Special Education team shall be present when disciplining a student who is on an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
3. Outline clearly the school's procedures to follow in the event of a drug and/or alcohol situation that is (a) an emergency, (b) a non-emergency, or (c) suspected.

4. Articulate clearly to students and parents/guardians the definition of drug and alcohol violations, the consequences for such violations, and the school's procedures for responding to situations involving drugs and/or alcohol.

D. Notification

The Head of School shall ensure that students and parents/guardians are notified of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions contained in the school rules and procedures related to this policy, and are notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory. Notice to students and parents/guardians will, at a minimum, be provided through inclusion of these standards and sanctions in the Student and Family Handbook.

V. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details on school rules and procedures pertaining to student use and abuse of drugs and/or alcohol, please consult the current year's Student and Family Handbook. For additional questions about this policy or for other assistance, please contact the Dean of Students.

ADOPTED: October 10, 2016