

Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

The TPCA Board shall not tolerate the illegal possession, use, sale, distribution or procurement of alcohol, drugs, or other controlled substances by a student in the classroom, on school grounds, in school vehicles or at school activities or events.

For purposes of this policy, controlled substances include but are not limited to: narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic or mind-altering drugs or substances, amphetamines, barbiturates, stimulants, depressants, marijuana, anabolic steroids, an other controlled substances, precursors or paraphernalia as defined in law, or any prescription or non prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical substances not taken in accordance with the Board policy and regulations on administering medicines to students.

This policy also includes substances that are represented by or to the student to be any such controlled substance or what the student believes to be any such substance.

This policy shall apply to any student who is on school property, in attendance at school, in a school vehicle or taking part in any school-sponsored or sanctioned activity or whose conduct at any time or place interferes with the operations of the TPCA or the safety or welfare of students or employees.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions, which shall include suspension and/or expulsion from school and referral for prosecution. Expulsion shall be mandatory for the sale or distribution of drugs or other controlled substances in accordance with state law.

Situations in which a student seeks counseling or information from a professional staff member for the purpose of overcoming substance abuse shall be handled on an individual basis depending upon the nature and particulars of the case.

The TPCA Board, in recognition that drug and alcohol abuse is a community problem, shall cooperate actively with law enforcement, social services or other agencies, parents/guardians and TPCA Board-approved community resources committed to reducing the incidents of illegal use of drugs and alcohol by school-aged youth.

Whenever possible in dealing with student problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse, school personnel shall provide parents and students with information concerning education and rehabilitation programs which are available. Information provided to students and/or parents about community substance abuse treatment programs or other resources shall be accompanied by a disclaimer to clarify that the TPCA assumes no financial responsibility for the expense of drug or alcohol assessment or treatment provided by other agencies or groups unless otherwise required.

Violations of this policy shall result in the application of the process and procedures outlined in the TPCA student code of conduct and discipline. Through the publication and distribution of the code, the TPCA Board shall have notified all students and their families of their rights and responsibilities under this policy