

X **Monitored**
 X **Mandated**
 X **Other**

Policy

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO

(Substance Abuse)

The Board of Education recognizes that the misuse of drugs/alcohol by any pupil seriously impedes that pupil's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community. The Board is committed to the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse and to provide school based assistance by appropriately certified staff for abusers of alcohol and other drugs. The Board will take necessary and appropriate steps to protect the school community from harm and exposure to drugs/alcohol. To this end, possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful.

The Board prohibits: the use, possession, being under the influence of or distribution of any alcohol or other drug, and the possession, use, or distribution of drug paraphernalia, on school premises, at any event away from the school premises that is sponsored by this Board and while traveling to and from school and other school activities. Pupils suspected of being under the influence of drugs/alcohol will be identified, evaluated, and reported in accordance with law. In accordance with New Jersey 18A:40-4.1, a pupil who uses, possesses, is under the influence of, or distributes drugs/alcohol on or off school premises, will be subject to medical examination and discipline, which will be graded to the severity of the offense and may include suspension or expulsion. The pupil will also be reported to appropriate law enforcement personnel. Incidents of drug and alcohol involvement will be reported to the commissioner of education on the appropriate form, namely, the Violence, Vandalism and Substance Abuse Incident Report. Pupils otherwise suspected of involvement with drugs/alcohol will be offered appropriate treatment and remediation. It is the Board's intention to use the disciplinary sanctions of the policy as a means of helping students recover from the debilitating effects of substance abuse.

The Board will enforce the laws of New Jersey requiring a program of drug education. A drug and alcohol unit will be incorporated into the health education curriculum in accordance with existing Department of Education guidelines. A minimum of 10 clock hours per school year of drug and alcohol education will be provided.

All district personnel shall be alert to signs of alcohol and other drug use by pupils and shall respond to those signs in accordance with procedures established by the Superintendent. The Board will provide in-service training to assist staff members in identifying the pupil who uses alcohol and other drugs, in teaching pupils about the consequences of alcohol and other drug use, and in helping pupils with alcohol and other drug-related problems. School-based interventions and evaluations, and referrals for evaluation or to recommend treatment will be made by individuals appropriately certified as "Substance Awareness Coordinator" as required by N.J.A.C. 6:29.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the district's efforts to provide the following:

- A. A comprehensive program of alcohol and other drug education, including tobacco and anabolic steroids, encompassing a minimum of 10 clock hours per school year;
- B. The identification and evaluation of pupils involved with drugs/alcohol;
- C. Procedures for dealing with pupils suspected of being under the influence of drugs/alcohol;

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO (continued)

- D. Discipline of pupils who use, possess, are under the influence of, or distribute drugs/alcohol in violation of law or this policy;
- E. The evaluation of such pupils to determine their need, if any, for special education and/or related services.

Board policy and implementing administrative regulations on alcohol and other drugs shall be reviewed and evaluated annually, in consultation with members of the community and local health agencies. A copy of this policy and regulations shall be made available annually to all school staff members, pupils, and parents/guardians, and a synopsis of the policy and regulations shall be distributed to the group mentioned above.

The section of these policies and regulations titled "Drug-free School Zone" shall take precedence over this "Alcohol and Other Drugs" section whenever any question arises regarding a potential conflict between sections.

Definition of Terms Used

The terms listed below are used throughout these procedures, and will have the following meaning unless otherwise specified.

Substances - any drug or alcoholic beverage including prescribed medications.

Abuse - the use of mood-altering and/or performance enhancing substances for other than medical purposes as directed by a physician.

Drugs - any chemical substance (i.e., alcohol, marijuana, steroids, cocaine, inhalants, valium, etc.) taken orally, intravenously, intramuscularly, smoked or inhaled for the purpose of abuse including any over the counter products, prescriptions, illicit drugs, and look-alikes.

Experimentation - when an individual appears to be using substances without any apparent physical or psychological dependency, deterioration in behavior, grades or attendance.

Chemically Dependent - when an individual's use of alcohol and/or drugs indicates some or all of the following: physical or psychological dependency, deterioration in grades, attendance, physical appearance or behavior.

Drug-free School Zones

The Board of Education is committed to providing the children of this district with a school environment conducive to learning, free of drugs and drug trafficking. To that end the Board will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.

No law enforcement operation, program, or activity shall be permitted to interfere with educational goals and prerogatives, which must always take precedence over traditional law enforcement objectives.

The Board appoints the Superintendent or his/her designee to serve as liaison officer to the Wanaque Police Department in the matter of providing drug-free school zones.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)

The Board may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Wanaque Police Department governing the roles and responsibilities of school employees and law enforcement officers with respect to controlled dangerous substances and to the planning and conduct of law enforcement activities and operations occurring on school property. Any such memorandum will be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary to comply with the requirements of law and meet the changing needs of the district.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to approve such undercover operations as may be necessary to identify and apprehend persons engaged in the illegal distribution of controlled dangerous substances on school premises. Any undercover operation must be planned and conducted in such a manner so as to minimize the risk of interruption to the educational program. The Board recognizes that the Superintendent is not permitted to ask the Board's approval for his/her action and is not permitted to discuss any aspect of the undercover operation until authorized to do so by law enforcement authorities. At the completion of an undercover operation in a school, and with the consent of the appropriate law enforcement authority, the Superintendent shall report to the Board regarding the nature of the operation, the result of the operation, and any serious problems encountered during the operation.

The Superintendent shall plan and implement such in-service training programs as may be required to instruct school employees in the Board's policy and procedures regarding cooperation with law enforcement activities in the provision of drug-free school zones.

In implementation of this policy, the Superintendent shall develop and present procedural regulations to the Board for its approval. Such regulations will cover the following areas to the extent they are not provided for in an approved memorandum of understanding:

- A. The roles and responsibilities of the liaison officer;
- B. Staff cooperation with arrests made by law enforcement officers;
- C. Searches on school premises;
- D. Interviews of pupils suspected of possessing, using, or distributing a controlled dangerous substance;
- E. The planning and conduct of undercover operations;
- F. The handling of drugs and drug paraphernalia;
- G. Notification of law enforcement authorities of suspension violations of the drug abuse laws;
- H. Requesting uniformed police at extra-curricular events;
- I. Notification of parents/guardians;
- J. The resolution of disputes; and
- K. Confidentiality.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (continued)

The Board will annually review and assess the effectiveness of this policy and the procedures set forth in implementing administrative regulations. The annual review will be conducted in consultation with the County Superintendent, the County Prosecutor, and members of the community.

Both policy and procedures on drug-free school zones will annually be made available to all school employees, pupils and parents/guardians.

**Memorandum of Understanding
between the
Ringwood Board of Education
and the
Ringwood Police Concerning Enforcement of Drug-free School Zones**

In an effort to enhance the existing cooperative ventures between Lakeland Regional High School and the Wanaque Police Department in enforcing drug-free school zone laws, this memorandum of understanding is established. The parties have discussed roles and procedures relating to the use, possession, and distribution of controlled, dangerous substances occurring on school property. The procedures outlined herewith include the planning and conducting of law enforcement activities on school property, including undercover operations.

Date:	Second Reading:	January 28, 2008
	First Reading:	December 17, 2007

