

Substance Use and Abuse



Adopted: 2007

Revised: Summer 2019

September 2020

I. PURPOSE

The School Board of East Range Academy of Technology and Science recognizes that substance use and abuse constitutes a grave threat to the physical and mental well-being of students and employees and significantly impedes the learning process. Substance use and abuse also creates significant problems for society in general. The school board believes that ERATS has a role in education, intervention, and prevention of substance use and abuse. The purpose of this policy is to prevent substance use and abuse by providing procedures for education and intervention.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Use of controlled substances, toxic substances, drugs, and alcohol is prohibited in accordance with school policies with respect to a Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School. ERATS encourages students to seek advice from, and to confide in, a trusted adult regarding concerns about substance abuse.
- B. ERATS educates its staff and students about substance abuse and supports the needs of students facing substance abuse issues.
- C. All staff members are responsible for reporting suspected or known student substance abuse. Administration is responsible for documenting and addressing reports of substance abuse.
- D. The school shall educate and assist employees, students and others in understanding this policy and the goals of achieving drug-free schools and workplaces.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Substance abuse" means use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, without compelling medical reason, in a manner that induces mental, emotional, or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional or socially disordering behavior, to the extent that the student's normal function in academic, school, or social activities is chronically impaired.

- B. “Substances” includes but is not limited to: drugs, alcohol, toxic substances, and controlled substances.
- C. “School location” includes any school buildings, property, vehicles, school activities including those held off school property, and any other school-related events.

IV. STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A. Instruction

- 1. The school shall provide an instructional program in substance abuse and the prevention of substance dependency.
- 2. The school shall have professional development and training for staff in prevention, education, early identification and intervention, mentoring, or rehabilitation referral, as related to drug and violence prevention.
- 3. The school shall have substance abuse prevention programs that may include the following:
 - a. Contracted canine substance detection services;
 - b. Contracted counseling, mentoring, and referral services;
 - c. Conflict resolution programs, including peer mediation.

B. Addressing Reports of Substance Use and Abuse

- 1. When administration receives a report that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing or selling substances in a school location, appropriate action will be taken, including but not limited to:
 - a. The Dean of Students or administration will immediately address the student or students involved.
 - b. The Dean of Students or administration will document the infraction in writing.
 - c. The Dean of Students or administration will notify the student’s parents. If there is a medical emergency, outside medical personnel will be notified as appropriate.
 - d. The Dean of Students or administration will notify law enforcement officials, the student’s counselor, and the chemical pre-assessment team.

- e. The Dean of Students, administration, and/or law enforcement officials will confiscate the substances and/or conduct a search of the student's effects, cubicle, vehicle, or areas within the student's control.
 - f. The school will take appropriate disciplinary action in compliance with the student discipline policy. Such discipline may include immediate suspension, initiation of expulsion proceedings, and/or referral to a detoxification center or medical center.
- 2. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution or sale of chemicals shall be suspended in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §121A.40-121A.56, and proposed for expulsion.
 - 3. Searches by school officials in connection with the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution or sale of chemicals will be conducted in accordance with school board policies related to search and seizure.

C. Data Practices

- 1. Student data may be disclosed without consent in health and safety emergencies pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.32 and applicable federal law and regulations.
- 2. Any data records pertaining to substance abuse become part of the student's permanent file.