

Technical Academies of Minnesota

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417 CHEMICAL USE AND ABUSE

I. PURPOSE

The charter school board recognizes that chemical use and abuse constitutes a grave threat to the physical and mental well-being of students and employees and significantly impedes the learning process. Chemical use and abuse also create significant problems for society in general. The charter school board believes that the public school has a role in education, intervention, and prevention of chemical use and abuse. The purpose of this policy is to assist the charter school in its goal to prevent chemical use and abuse by providing procedures for education and intervention.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Use or possession of controlled substances, toxic substances, medical cannabis, and alcohol before, during, or after school hours, at school, or in any other school location, is prohibited in accordance with charter school policies with respect to a Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
- B. The charter school shall develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement.
- C. Every charter school that participates in a charter school chemical abuse program shall establish a chemical abuse preassessment team. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
- D. The charter school shall establish a drug-free awareness program for its employees.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Chemical abuse," as applied to students, means the use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, without a 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 minor's normal function in academic, school or social activities are chronically impaired.

- B. “Controlled substances,” as applied to the chemical abuse assessment of students, means a drug, substance, or immediate precursor in Schedules I through V of Minnesota Statutes section 152.02 and “marijuana” as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 152.01, subdivision 9 but not distilled spirits, wine, malt beverages, intoxicating liquors or tobacco. As otherwise defined in this policy, “controlled substances” include narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code section 812, including analogs and look-alike drugs.
- C. “Drug prevention” means prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation referral, recovery support services, or education related to the illegal use of drugs, such as raising awareness about the consequences of drug use that are evidence-based.
- D. “Teacher” means all persons employed in a charter school or by a service cooperative as members of the instructional, supervisory, and support staff including supervisors, secondary vocational and other classroom teachers, librarians, counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, school social workers, audio-visual directors and coordinators, recreation personnel, media generalists, media supervisors, and speech therapists.

IV. STUDENTS

A. Charter School Discipline Policy

Procedures for detecting and addressing chemical abuse problems of a student while on school premises are included in the charter school student discipline policy.

B. Programs and Activities

1. The charter school shall develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievements. The programs and activities may include, among other programs and activities, drug prevention activities and programs that may be evidence-based, including programs to educate students against the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, smokeless tobacco products, and electronic cigarettes.
2. As part of its drug-free programs, the charter school may implement the drug abuse resistance education program (DARE) that enables peace officers to undergo training to teach a curriculum on drug abuse resistance in schools.

C. Reports of Use, Possession, or Transfer of Alcohol or a Controlled Substance

1. A teacher in a nonpublic school participating in a charter school chemical use program, or a public school teacher, who knows or has reason to believe that a student is using, possessing, or transferring alcohol or a controlled substance while on the charter school premises or involved in charter school-related activities, shall immediately notify the charter school's chemical abuse preassessment team, or staff member assigned duties similar to those of such a team, of this information.
2. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution, or sale of chemicals may be suspended and proposed for expulsion in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.40-121A.56, and proposed for expulsion.
3. Searches by charter school officials in connection with the use, possession, or transfer of alcohol or a controlled substance will be conducted in accordance with charter school board policies related to search and seizure.
4. Nothing in paragraph IV.B.1. prevents a teacher or any other charter school employee from reporting to a law enforcement agency any violation of law occurring on charter school premises or at charter school-sponsored events.

C. Preassessment Team

1. Every school that participates in a charter school chemical abuse program shall establish a chemical abuse preassessment team designated by the charter school staff. The team must be composed of classroom teachers, school social workers, chemical abuse specialists, and other appropriate professional staff.
2. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
3. Within forty-five (45) days after receiving an individual reported case, the team shall make a determination whether to provide the student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents with information about the charter school and community services in connection with chemical abuse.

D. Data Practices

1. Student data may be disclosed without consent in health and safety emergencies pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.32 and applicable federal law and regulations.
2. Destruction of Records
 - a. If the preassessment team decides not to provide a student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents with information about the charter school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the determination is made.
 - b. If the team decides to provide the student and, in the case of a minor or a dependent student, the student's parents with such information about the charter school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the student is no longer enrolled in the charter school.
 - c. Destruction of records identifying individual students shall be governed by paragraph IV.E.2. notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes section 138.163 (Preservation and Disposal of Public Records).

E. Consent

Any minor may give effective consent for medical, mental, and other health services to determine the presence of or to treat conditions associated with alcohol and other drug abuse, and the consent of no other person is required.

V. EMPLOYEES

- A. The charter school shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
1. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace/school.
 2. The charter school's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace.
 3. Available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs.

4. The penalties that may be imposed on employees for drug abuse violations.
- B. The charter school shall notify a federal granting agency required to be notified under the Drug-Free Workplace Act within ten (10) days after receiving notice from the employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of any criminal drug statute conviction occurring in the workplace.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.25-121A.29 (Chemical Abuse)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.695 (Approved Recovery Program Funding)
Minn. Stat. § 126C.44 (Safe Schools Levy)
Minn. Stat. § 138.163 (Preservation and Disposal of Public Records)
Minn. Stat. § 144.343 (Pregnancy, Venereal Disease, Alcohol or Drug Abuse, Abortion)
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 152.02 (Schedules of Controlled Substances; Administration of Chapter)
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis) Minnesota Statutes, section 299A.33 (DARE Program)
Minn. Stat. § 466.07, subd. 1 (Indemnification Required)
Minn. Stat. § 609.101, subd. 3(e) (Controlled Substance Offenses; Minimum Fines)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
20 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7122 (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)
20 U.S.C. § 5812 (National Education Goals)
20 U.S.C. § 7175 (Local Activities)
41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106 (Drug-Free Workplace Act)
34 C.F.R. Part 84 (Government-Wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of Charter School Employees)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 419 (Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 502 (Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 527 (Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches)