

Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

The use, abuse, possession or being under the influence of a controlled substance, unauthorized prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs or alcohol is prohibited on any School Department property, including vehicles owned, leased or approved by the School Department.

The use, sale, transfer or possession of drug-related paraphernalia is also prohibited.

The Portsmouth School Department has identified all school department property to be drug free school zones pursuant to RSA 193-B.

No student shall enter Portsmouth School Department property, or attend school-sponsored activities in possession of, or under the influence of controlled substances, drugs, drug related paraphernalia or alcohol, including in vehicles parked on school property or that are under the control of the student.

A controlled substance is one that is defined in the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 812 or the Controlled Drug Act found in RSA 318-B.

First Offense:

Students who have been found to be in violation of this section of the policy for the first time shall be subject to the following discipline:

- Suspension from school for up to five (5) school days
- Participation in an evaluation conducted by a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor
- Attendance at a meeting between the student, parent or guardian, and school personnel to review and develop a plan to implement the recommendations of the evaluation

The student and/or the parent or guardian may request a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools if there is disagreement with school officials concerning the implementation of any of the recommendations. The Superintendent may impose additional days of suspension if he/she determines that the student and/or the parent or guardian is not reasonably cooperating with the implementation of the recommendations.

Second/Subsequent Offenses:

Students who have been found to be in a subsequent violation of this section of the policy within one (1) calendar year from the prior offense shall be subject to the following discipline:

- Suspension from school for up to ten (10) school days.
- A meeting with the Superintendent and Building Principal
- A referral to the Portsmouth School Board with the possibility of expulsion from school
- Re-evaluated by a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor
- Participation in the development and implementation of an initial treatment plan prior to readmission to school

The Superintendent of Schools may impose additional days of suspension if he/she determines that the student and/or the parent or guardian is not reasonably cooperating with the implementation of the recommendations.

Selling, Distributing or Transfer of Controlled Substances:

Selling, distributing or transfer of controlled substances, or substances represented to be a controlled substance, including prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs, or alcohol is prohibited. Selling, distributing or transfer is defined as selling, supplying, distributing or giving it to another. In addition, if the student is found in possession of a sufficient quantity of a controlled substance to sell or distribute it will be considered possession with intent to sell and will be a violation of this section of the policy.

All Offenses:

Students found to have violated this policy will be subject to the following discipline:

- An automatic suspension of ten (10) school days
- A meeting with the Superintendent and Building Principal
- Referral to the School Board for a disciplinary hearing
- The School Board may impose discipline as it deems appropriate under the facts and circumstances of the matter up to and including expulsion from school.
- Evaluation by a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and a treatment plan must be developed prior to readmission to school.

All violations of this policy will be reported to the Portsmouth Police Department.

Legal References:

[21 U.S.C. § 812\(c\)](#), *Controlled Substances Act*

[RSA 318-C](#), *Controlled Drug Act*

[RSA 571-C:2](#), *Intoxicating Beverages at Interscholastic Athletic Contests*