

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Since informed attitudes and accurate facts about drug and/or alcohol use can play a significant role in community wide drug abuse prevention programs, the Board of Education accepts its responsibility for providing meaningful educational programs regarding drugs and alcohol and their role in society. In order to further this educational and preventive goal, the Sharon Springs Central School District shall cooperate with those community resources or public agencies responsible for prevention, identification, treatment, and rehabilitation of drug and/or alcohol related problems.

A student who illegally possesses, uses, distributes, or is under the influence of drugs, including alcohol, while on school premises or at a school sponsored activity is a potential danger to himself and the school community. All laws pertaining to drug abuse shall be respected by students while on school premises or at a school sponsored activity. When a student is in violation of this policy, appropriate measures shall be taken by school personnel to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the student concerned and the school community. Such measures shall include notification of parents by the school administration, followed by notification of the appropriate law enforcement agency, a 5 day at home suspension or in school suspension and referral of the student and his/her family to an appropriate drug/alcohol treatment service. In all cases involving the enforcement of this policy, care shall be exercised by school district personnel to ensure that the legal rights of students are protected.

Educational programs designed to assist staff in the recognition of possible drug related illness are encouraged. However, because of the difficulty in distinguishing between drug related illness, school personnel should not attempt to diagnose, define, or categorize the nature of a student's illness. Procedures shall be established to ensure that a student who becomes ill during the day or whose behavior or appearance suggests possible drug related reactions shall be evaluated by competent persons in order to determine the student's physical fitness for school attendance.