

## LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **SUBSTANCES AND WEAPONS POLICIES OVERVIEW**

The Board recognizes that violence and problems associated with the abuse of drugs and alcohol are broad reaching societal problems. It is the goal of the Board to provide a safe learning environment and to participate in seeking solutions to these problems. Supplemented by the Pennsylvania crimes code, these policies reflect the relevant state and federal laws.

#### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY**

##### Educational Program

The school district will present an articulated program of education in grades kindergarten through twelve, the program will be multi-disciplinary, structured to the grade level of the students, using available instructional materials and local and community resources. In addition, the schools will cooperate with parents, civic, and religious leaders in broadening programs of drug and alcohol education.

##### General Procedures

- 1) If a staff member has reason to believe, a student is using, selling, providing, dealing or in possession of drugs or alcohol, the staff member will immediately report all information to the principal or his designee.
- 2) If the principal or his designee has, reason to believe that a student is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the student will be taken to the nurse's station and parents will be notified immediately. The student will be housed in the principal's office until action is completed. If evidence is present that the student is under the influence of drug and/or alcohol, the student must submit to a breathalyzer or a urinalysis drug test at the Susquehanna Health Work Center in accordance with Policy 227.
- 3) If the principal or his designee has evidence to believe that, a student has drugs or alcohol in his/her possession while on school property, he/she will search the student and confiscate the items.
- 4) All incidences of drug or alcohol abuse will be brought to the attention of the local law enforcement agency and the Superintendent.
- 5) If it is determined that the student was under the influence of, selling, providing, dealing, or possessing unlawful substance(s), the principal, after due process procedures, will suspend the student from school. The suspension may be exclusion from school for a period of up to three (3) school days without a hearing, exclusion from school up to ten (10) school days, after an informal hearing before the principal is offered to the student and the student's parents. All students will be referred to the Student Assistance Program at their respective school buildings.
- 6) Prior to the return of the student from the expulsion or suspension, the principal will have a conference with the student, parents, and the Superintendent. In the conference, the parents will be urged to seek assistance from the community agency trained to deal appropriately with the problem. In addition, the Superintendent will inform parents that if there is a repetition of the same or similar offense, he will recommend an expulsion hearing to the board of school directors. The Superintendent may recommend an expulsion hearing for a first offense, if in his/her judgment it is warranted/recommended. This includes, but is not necessarily restricted to, cases in which a student is under charges by police officials for selling, dealing, or providing unlawful substances.
- 7) When a known problem (drug/alcohol) exists, parents and/or students will work closely with the guidance department in working toward a solution of the existing problem. The guidance

department may advise corrective measures with various community agencies and professional personnel.

- 8) Documentation of procedures and treatment will be submitted to the principal indicating corrective measures are taking place by the parents and/or agencies involved.
- 9) The principal will document all facts and information on the incident and submit, in writing, a report to the Superintendent.

### **WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY POLICY**

#### Authority

No student shall possess any weapon in a school building, on the grounds of any school, in any school bus, or at any school activity, event, or function.

#### Definition

For the purpose of this policy, "weapon" shall refer to any item used in a threatening manner and shall include, but not be limited to any knife, cutting tool, cutting instrument, nun chuck stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle, air or B.B. or pellet gun, metal knuckles, chain, razor, ice pick, explosive or any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury, or any items defined as a firearm under Title 18 United States Code, Section 921.

#### Reports

Incidents of violation of this policy shall be reported to the building principal who will conduct an investigation and report the violation to the Superintendent. Parents will be notified. An apparent violation of the Crimes Code will be referred to the State Police.

#### Discipline – Policy 233

School discipline may include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1) Detention – loss of privileges
- 2) Conference with the Superintendent
- 3) Out-of-school suspension
- 4) School Board hearing to consider expulsion

#### Procedures

The Superintendent shall develop procedures and protocols for investigating and documenting alleged violations of this policy, for responding to threats, and emergencies, and for improving building security.

Written notice of any incident involving possession of a weapon on school premises shall be given to the parent or guardian of the student, and to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Any student who is determined to have brought a weapon, (as defined as a firearm under 18 USC Section 921) to school shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one (1) year. However, the Superintendent may modify such expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis.

The district shall provide to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, in any application requesting assistance from the Department, a description of the circumstances surrounding any expulsions imposed under the Pennsylvania law mandated by the Gun-Free School Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-382), including the name of the school involved, the number of students expelled from such school, and the type of weapons concerned.