

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Introduction. Student use of alcohol and student use of controlled substances (drugs) for which the student does not have a valid prescription are illegal. Illegal use of drugs and alcohol has an adverse effect on everyone in the Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School community. This policy is designed to assist students in abstaining from drugs and alcohol and to provide assistance and appropriate referral when use is detected or suspected.

Definitions

Cooperative – The willingness of a student to work with staff and school personnel in a reasonable and helpful manner, complying with the reasonable requests and recommendations of the staff.

Distributing – The act of delivering, receiving, selling, buying, passing, sharing or giving alcohol or drugs to another person.

Drug or controlled substance – A chemical substance, the possession and use of which are regulated by law. For purposes of this policy, drug or controlled substance will also include a chemical substance for which the student does not have a valid prescription. Drug (and controlled substance) will include look-alike chemicals or substances intended to alter mood, and alcohol.

Look-alike – A substance that resembles a drug or mood altering chemical.

Parent – Any adult responsible for the care and well-being of a minor student. "Parent" will be interpreted in the broadest sense to include any person responsible for the student whether that is a birth/adoptive parent, guardian, step parent, or foster parent.

School property – Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School buildings, facilities and grounds, parking areas and any facility used for Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School functions. For the purpose of this policy, school property will also include school transportation and transportation stops.

School sponsored activity – Any event funded and/or supervised by Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School.

Uncooperative – Student resistance or refusal – oral, physical or passive – to comply with the reasonable request or recommendations of a staff member at the time the student is caught using or possessing drugs or alcohol. Defiance, assault and lying are examples of uncooperative behavior.

Use – Ingestion, inhalation or injection for the purpose of producing a physiological or psychological effect.

Procedures. The goal of this policy is to provide a drug-free, healthy and productive environment for all students. Therefore, student use of alcohol and drugs is prohibited. This policy does not prohibit the use of drugs for which a student has a valid prescription.

Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School will provide educational guidance and supportive services to assist students in issues related to illegal drug and alcohol use.

Students with drug and/or alcohol problems will be referred to appropriate support and rehabilitation services after written notice to the students' parents.

Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School is committed to keeping students in school during treatment, but it reserves the right to make appropriate alternative arrangements if appropriate to safeguard the health and safety of the student and the Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School community.

If a student cannot attend school due to treatment, Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School will assist in coordinating a successful re-entry into the Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School system, if appropriate.

When necessary, Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School will take appropriate disciplinary action to address student drug and alcohol use. The focus, however, will remain getting students assistance in addressing their drug and alcohol problems. Thus, students violating this drug and alcohol policy may be required by Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School to get treatment, counseling, alternative education and/or other services. In extreme cases, students may be expelled (pursuant to applicable law and regulation) from Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School.

Particular Situations

Drug or alcohol use symptoms. If a staff member witnesses a student exhibiting symptoms of drug or alcohol use, the staff member will contact the school nurse

or school counselor. If necessary, this will be treated as a medical emergency, and the student will be transported to a medical facility. The Principal or his/her designee will investigate the incident, which may include a search of the student's locker. The student's parents will be contacted. If a controlled substance is discovered, the police will be contacted. The student will be referred to counseling and may be disciplined, if appropriate.

Alcohol or drug possession.

First offense. If a student is found to be in possession of alcohol or drugs, has no prior history of possession and is cooperative, he/she will be taken to the Principal's office. The student will be accompanied at all times. The Principal or his/her designee will investigate. The student's locker will be searched. The student's parents will be contacted. If alcohol or a controlled substance is discovered, the police will be contacted. The student will be referred to counseling and will participate in a restorative intervention. The student will be required to participate in drug and alcohol evaluation and be required to follow any recommendation of the evaluator. The student may not be permitted to participate in student activities or school social events for the number of days or weeks designated by the Principal. The student and his/her parents may be required to attend a drug and alcohol educational program. The student may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Second (or more) offense. If a student is found to be in possession of alcohol or drugs and has a prior history of possession he/she will be taken to the Principal's office. The student will be accompanied at all times. The Principal or his/her designee will investigate. The student's locker will be searched. The student's parents will be contacted. If alcohol or a controlled substance is discovered, the police will be contacted. The student will be referred to counseling and will be disciplined. Consequences may include suspension or expulsion. The student will be required to participate in drug and alcohol evaluation and be required to follow any recommendation of the evaluator. The student may not be permitted to participate in student activities or school social events for a number of days/weeks designated by the Principal. The student and his/her parents may be required to attend a drug and alcohol educational program. The student may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Paraphernalia possession. If a student is found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia, he/she will be taken to the Principal's office. The student will

be accompanied at all times. The Principal or his/her designee will investigate. The student's locker will be searched. The student's parents will be contacted. The police also will be contacted. If alcohol or a controlled substance is discovered or if student admits to using drugs or alcohol, the Alcohol or Drug Possession portion of this policy will control. The student will be referred to counseling. If only paraphernalia is discovered and the student is not in possession of alcohol or controlled substances and is not under the influence, the student will be disciplined. Consequences may include suspension or expulsion. (For use or possession situations, refer to the Alcohol or Drug Possession portion of this policy.) The student may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Distributing and/or selling. If a student is found to be distributing or selling alcohol or drugs he/she will be taken to the Principal's office. The student will be accompanied at all times. The Principal or his/her designee will investigate. The student's locker will be searched. The student's parents will be contacted. The police will be contacted. The student will be referred to counseling and will be disciplined. Consequences may include suspension or expulsion. The student will be required to participate in drug and alcohol evaluation and be required to follow any recommendation of the evaluator. The student may not be permitted to participate in student activities or school social events for a number of days/weeks designated by the Principal. The student and his/her parents may be required to attend a drug and alcohol educational program. The student may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Using, possessing, distributing, and/or selling at school sponsored functions. It will also be a violation of this policy for a student to use, possess, distribute, and/or sell drugs or alcohol when attending or participating in any school sponsored function on or off school property, including events at other schools. The Administrator in attendance will be notified and appropriate security will be called. The student will be accompanied at all times. In the event of a medical emergency, the student will be transported to a medical facility at his/her parents' expense. The Principal will investigate and will contact the student's parents. Discipline and possible police intervention may be used. The student may be referred to counseling.

Administration

Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School expressly reserves the right to change, modify or delete the provisions of this Drug and Alcohol Policy and agrees to notify

students and parents of any change in advance to allow students and parents to plan accordingly.