

## North Lakes Academy

### **Policy #: 304**

**Policy Name:** Student Drug & Alcohol Policy

Adopted: April 13, 2010

Reviewed:

#### **I. Purpose**

North Lakes Academy (NLA) has developed the Student Drug and Alcohol policy to send a powerful message that the use, possession, distribution or sale of illegal drugs, alcohol, narcotics, drug paraphernalia, tobacco, prescription drugs, or simulated drugs is not permitted on school grounds at any time, or at off-campus events sponsored by the school. Secondly, but certainly equally important, the policy and the disciplinary and guidance actions are intended to generate a school climate that will engage the broader school community in comprehensive and thoughtful efforts to stop the use of alcohol and illegal drugs by adolescents.

#### **II. Specific Policy Elements**

Use, possession, distribution or sale of illegal drugs, alcohol, narcotics, drug paraphernalia, tobacco, prescription drugs, or simulated drugs is a violation of School District Policy.

To maintain a safe and healthful educational environment, random searches of school lockers and vehicles involving law enforcement canine units may be conducted throughout the year.

Any NLA student found to be in possession or under the influence of alcohol or any other illegal substance or involved in a sale, distribution, attempt to sell or attempt to distribute in school, on school property, school bus, at any school sponsored event, will be subject to the following actions:

1. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified.
2. After a determination beyond reasonable doubt has been made that the student has violated the drug and alcohol policy, he/she will be temporarily suspended from school for a time period sufficient to develop the plan.
3. The plan will determine the length of suspension from school and extracurricular activities.
4. The plan is based on the specific situation, the specific misbehavior, the age of the student and any other considerations the administration considers relevant and important.
5. The decision of the School Administration (building administrator, dean, co-directors, and school board) is final and made at the sole discretion and judgment of the school administration.

Guidelines to follow when determining the specifics of suspension:

- Under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco on school property or at a school event: consequence ~ up to a ten (10) day suspension. More than one offense will lead to more severe consequences, which may include expulsion.

- Possession and/or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, simulated drugs with others on school property or at a school event: consequence ~ up to a ten (10) day suspension and consideration for expulsion based on type and quantity of drug.
  - Selling, intent to sell, distributing or intent to distribute illegal drugs, prescription drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or simulated drugs on school property or at a school event: consequence ~ ten (10) to fifteen (15) day suspension with consideration for expulsion.
  - Suspension from Arts, Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities see Policy # 103 Extracurricular Activity Eligibility.
  - Administration will follow the Minnesota State Laws in reference to actions taken.
6. An educational assignment may be included in the suspension.
  7. The police will be notified.

NLA reserves the right to require chemical testing prior to re-admittance at the cost of the student.

### **III. Special Reporting Requirements**

Restoration to the NLA community will be determined by School Administration on a case by case basis.

The student may be re-admitted to school following consideration by the administration of:

1. Declaration of a good faith effort to develop and complete a plan
2. Development of a specific and detailed plan
3. Complete the plan.

Suspensions must be reported to the state of MN through the DIRS system, a designated person appointed by the school administration will complete this reporting process.

### **Assessment and Evaluation**

The following may be used at the discretion of the School Administration when developing a plan of action for suspension.

#### Research Project

The student may be required to conduct a research project to learn about the effects of illegal drug use or alcohol on an individual, his/her family, and society in general. The scope of the project will be appropriate to the age of the student. The student may be required to visit and observe jails, courthouses, or other appropriate sites or agencies. The student may be required to write a biographical essay of a person involved with drugs or alcohol whom he/she has met and interviewed.

#### Community Service

The student may be required to participate in a project or organization to "make up" for what was done wrong or "restore" what was harmed. Participation should be voluntary

and substantial. It will extend over a period of time. The intent is for the student to experience how a person can be significantly affected by helping others.

Additional Restoration Options for plan of action with Parent/School Administration/Student could include but are not limited to:

#### Counseling

The student may enter a course of counseling appropriate to the findings of the evaluation. The appropriate course of counseling will be mutually determined by the student, parents, and school administration. The confidential information from the evaluation will not be sent to the school. Only the evaluator's recommendations must be shared. The counselor will send to the school regular confidential reports of the progress of counseling. The school is interested in regular attendance and good faith efforts on the part of the student and his/her family.

#### Physical and Personal Challenge

The student may enter into and complete a physical and personal challenge that results in actual accomplishment at a demanding level. Examples of such a challenge are: Outward Bound, wilderness camping, meditation, karate, construction of a building, artistic performance, or art work. The challenge is intended to provide direct, concrete experience with risk, excitement, joy, companionship, effort, perseverance, accomplishment, and personal fulfillment without the use of illegal drugs and alcohol.

As stated, any or all of the previous may be used in the development of a plan of restoration of the student to the NLA community. The School Administration reserves the right to determine alternative methods of restoration not delineated.

Definitions taken from 2009 Minnesota Statutes

"Expulsion" means a school board action to prohibit an enrolled pupil from further attendance for up to 12 months from the date the pupil is expelled.

"Suspension" means an action by the school administration, under rules promulgated by the school board, prohibiting a pupil from attending school for a period of no more than ten school days. If a suspension is longer than five days, the suspending administrator must provide the superintendent with a reason for the longer suspension. This definition does not apply to dismissal from school for one school day or less, except as provided in federal law for a student with a disability. Each suspension action may include a readmission plan. The readmission plan shall include, where appropriate, a provision for implementing alternative educational services upon readmission and may not be used to extend the current suspension. Consistent with section [125A.091, subdivision 5](#), the readmission plan must not obligate a parent to provide a sympathomimetic medication for the parent's child as a condition of readmission. The school administration may not impose consecutive suspensions against the same pupil for the same course of conduct, or incident of misconduct, except where the pupil will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property, or where the district is in the process of initiating an expulsion, in which case the school administration may extend the suspension to a total of 15 school days.