

#### **6.4.4 Competitive Extracurricular Activities Substance Abuse Program**

- a. *Objective:* It is the objective of the Auburn City Board of Education to:
  - 1. Create and maintain a safe, drug-free environment for all students participating in competitive extracurricular activities and to educate students as to the serious physical, mental and emotional harm caused by illegal drug use.
  - 2. Encourage any student with a dependence on, or addiction to, alcohol or other drugs to seek help in overcoming the problem.
  - 3. Reduce the likelihood of incidents of accidental personal injury to students and/or damage to property
  - 4. Minimize the likelihood that school property will be used for illicit drug activities
  - 5. Undermine the efforts of negative peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse the use of prohibited substances.
- b. *Drug Use/Distribution/Impairment/Possession* - All students participating in any competitive extracurricular activities sanctioned or sponsored by or for Auburn City Schools in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) are prohibited from using, possessing, distributing, manufacturing, or having prohibited substances, abusing prescription drugs or any other mind-altering or intoxicating substances, or having any prohibited substance in their system while at practice, participating in competitive events or otherwise while under the care of the school system.
- c. *Alcohol Use/Possession/Impairment* - All students participating in competitive extracurricular activities sanctioned or sponsored by or for Auburn City Schools in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) are prohibited from possessing, drinking, or being impaired or intoxicated by alcohol while at practice or participating in a competitive event or while under the care of the school system.
- d. *After School Hours Conduct* - All students participating in competitive extracurricular activities should realize that these regulations will necessarily monitor for substance abuse which may have occurred both during and away from school activities.
- e. *Authorization and Support*

1. The Auburn City School Board authorizes the Superintendent, or his/her designee, to develop procedures and protocol for a program with the objective that all students participating in competitive extracurricular activities for students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) report to all practice and competitive events, and at all times while under the care of the school system, completely free from the effects of alcohol and /or the presence of other prohibited substances.
2. The Board of Education recommends that the Superintendent, or his/her designee, work with students, parents, and the community to develop support for this program.

# **AUBURN CITY SCHOOLS**

## **COMPETITIVE EXTRACURRICULAR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM**

### **I. OVERVIEW**

The Auburn City Board of Education (the Board) recognizes participants in competitive extracurricular activities as present and future assets to our academic and leadership education process. Students who participate in competitive extracurricular activities serve as role models for other students and are a key to our goal of providing the best possible education program for all students. To achieve our goal and to maximize the skills and talents of our students, it is important that every student, as well as employees, of our school system understand the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Substance abuse can be a serious threat to the school system, its students, visitors and employees. While the percentage of substance abusing students may be relatively small in absolute terms, any substance abuse can significantly affect the health and safety of the abusing student or the student's classmates. Moreover, practical experience and research indicate that appropriate precautions are necessary. It is the belief of the Board that the benefits derived from the policy objectives outweigh the potential inconvenience to students. The Board earnestly solicits the understanding and cooperation of all students and parents, especially those participating in competitive extracurricular activities, in implementing this policy.

The Board requires that all students report to school, practices and competitive events without prohibited substances in their system. No student shall use or be under the influence of prohibited substances while participating in any practices or competitive events or otherwise while under the care and supervision of the school system.

Participating in competitive extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and the student must be willing to conform to the guidelines of the Competitive Extracurricular Activities Substance Abuse Policy in order to be given the privilege to participate in these events.

Students who participate in these activities are respected by the student body and are representing the school district and the community. Accordingly, students in extra-curricular activities carry a responsibility to themselves, their fellow students, their parents and their school to set the highest possible examples of conduct, sportsmanship, and training, which includes avoiding the use or possession of illegal drugs and/or alcohol.

Students must inform their coach or sponsor when they are legitimately possessing and taking medications which may affect their ability to practice or compete in order to avoid creating safety problems and to remain in compliance with this policy.

In order to enforce these rules, the Board reserves the right to require all students who desire to participate in competitive extracurricular activities to submit, at any time prior to, during or following a practice, competitive event, or otherwise while under the supervision or care of this school system, to drug and/or alcohol tests to determine the presence of prohibited substances.

Students applying to participate in competitive extracurricular activities may also be screened as a condition for participation in the activity of their choice. Students may also be required to undergo screening in conjunction with any scheduled physical examinations, where the Board has reasonable suspicion to believe a student has violated its Competitive Extracurricular Activities Substance Abuse Program and/or in a random basis without advance notice.

Violation of these rules, including testing positive and/or refusal to undergo screening will subject the student to suspension from competitive extracurricular activities in accordance with the penalty structure set forth herein. Refusal to cooperate in any test investigation may also result in immediate suspension from participating in competitive extracurricular activities.

No student testing positive, refusing to test, refusing to cooperate with testing or being in violation of this policy will be penalized academically. Information, including testing positive, shall be held in the strictest confidence and will not be released to criminal or juvenile authorities, absent compulsion by law or consent of the student.

All information, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda and test results, written or otherwise, received by the Board, through its drug and alcohol screening program, are confidential communications and may not be used or received in evidence, obtained in discovery, or disclosed in any public or private proceeding, except in the following (a) as directed by the specific, written consent of the student and the student's parents or legal guardian authorizing release of the information to an identified person; or, (b) to the trier of fact(s) in a lawsuit, grievance, or other proceeding initiated by or on behalf of the individual, or otherwise under compulsion of law.

The Board reserves the right to amend this policy and these procedures where it deems it is appropriate. Except where specifically prohibited by law, the guidelines contained within this document, may be changed by the Board at any time. Students covered by this policy and these procedures will be informed of changes.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

A. To create and maintain a safe, drug-free environment for all students participating in competitive extracurricular activities and to educate students as to the serious physical, mental and emotional harm caused by illegal drug use.

B. To encourage any student with a dependence on, or addiction to, alcohol or other drugs to seek help in overcoming the problem.

- C. To reduce the likelihood of incidents of accidental personal injury to students and/or damage to property.
- D. To minimize the likelihood that school property will be used for illicit drug activities.
- F. To undermine the efforts of negative peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse the use of prohibited substances.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

A. Competitive Extracurricular Activities - Any Seventh (7th) through Twelfth (12th) Grade sanctioned or sponsored extracurricular activity in any way involving competition, comparison or judging of the individuals or groups with other individuals or groups, on or off campus, involving academics and/or athletics.

Competitive extracurricular activities include, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, programs such as football, basketball, baseball, wrestling, angling, lacrosse, tennis, golf, track, cheerleading, dance team, band (including majorettes and flag carriers), academic teams, choir, scholar bowl, debate teams, drama teams, Science Olympiad, Career Technical Student Organizations, etc.

B. Prohibited Substances - Alcohol, amphetamines, anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines, methadone, opiates, phencyclidine, propoxyphene, barbiturates, cocaine, cannabinoids, marijuana, hallucinogenic drugs, and all drugs which the narcotic and drug abuse laws of the United States, local municipalities, and/or the State of Alabama classify as illegal. Prohibited substances also include controlled or prescribed medications taken by a student, unless such medication has been prescribed for the specific student and is being taken in the dosages specified by the prescribing physician.

C. Trained Observer – A designated Trained Observer, having no less than 90 minutes training on alcohol and controlled substance misuse. The training will cover the physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of probable use and misuse of alcohol and other prohibited substances. Documentation of training attendance must be maintained by the Drug Program Coordinator.

D. Drug Testing Agent - The licensed and qualified independent testing agency or medical office selected by the Board to carry out the screening of students.

E. Drug Program Coordinator - An employee(s) of the Auburn City Board of Education, appointed by the Superintendent, responsible for the overall implementation of the Competitive Extracurricular Activities Substance Abuse Program.

F. Medical Review Officer (MRO) - A licensed physician employed by the Drug Testing Agent responsible for interpreting and evaluating the data generated from drug screenings.

#### **IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Practical experience and research have proven that even small quantities of narcotics, abused prescription drugs or alcohol can impair judgment and reflexes, which can create unsafe conditions for students. Even when not readily apparent, this impairment can have serious results for students engaged in competitive extracurricular activities. Drug-using students are a threat to co-participants, other students and themselves, and may make injurious errors. For these reasons, the Auburn City Board of Education has authorized the Superintendent, or his/her designee, to develop procedures and protocol for a program to assure that all students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) participating in competitive extracurricular activities report to all practice and competitive events, and at all times while under the care of the school system, completely free from the effects of alcohol and/or the presence of other prohibited substances.

##### **A. Drug Use/Distribution/Impairment/Possession**

All students participating in competitive extracurricular activities are prohibited from using, possessing, distributing, manufacturing, or having prohibited substances, abusing prescription drugs or any other mind-altering or intoxicating substances, or having any prohibited substance in their system while at practice, participating in competitive events or otherwise while under the care of the school system.

##### **B. Alcohol Use/Possession/Impairment**

All students participating in competitive extracurricular activities are prohibited from possessing, drinking, or being impaired or intoxicated by alcohol while at practice or participating in a competitive event or while under the care of the school system.

##### **C. After School Hours Conduct**

After school hours use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or any other prohibited substance which results in a positive drug test as outlined herein will result in the consequences as outlined herein. Students participating in competitive extracurricular activities should realize that these regulations test for substance abuse which may have occurred both during and away from school activities.

##### **D. Prescription Drugs**

A student may submit a confidential written notice for consideration to the Drug Testing Agency and/or the Medical Review Officer detailing any prescription medication for which the student has a valid prescription or other over the counter medicine taken by the student.