

**PLEASE SIGN
ON REVERSE SIDE**

Policy No. #100DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

St. Thomas Aquinas High School recognizes that the misuse of drugs* and alcohol has a deleterious effect on the health and education of those pupils and jeopardizes the welfare of the entire school community. The School is committed to the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse through educational means and other appropriate programs and services and will take necessary and firm action to protect the school community from harm and from exposure to the negative aspects of drug and alcohol use/abuse.

The School prohibits the use, possession and/or distribution of drugs or alcohol on school premises and at any event away from the school premises that is sponsored by this school, and on any transportation vehicle provided by this School. Pupils suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be identified, evaluated and reported in accordance with the law. Pupils who use, consume, possess or distribute drugs or alcohol on or off school premises will be subject to discipline, which may include suspension, expulsion and notification of law enforcement.

All teaching staff members shall be alert to signs of drug and alcohol use by pupils and shall respond to those signs in accordance with established administrative procedures. The School will provide in-service training to assist teaching staff members in identifying the symptoms of pupils who use drugs or alcohol, and educating pupils about the consequences of drug or alcohol use, and in cooperating with those independent rehabilitation programs for drug and alcohol related problems in which pupils attending the school are enrolled.

A drug and alcohol curriculum (grades 9 -12) is incorporated in the Health curriculum. Additionally, a program is in place to provide referral and support services for pupils who are experiencing problems with drugs or alcohol.

Thus, the School policies include the following procedures: (1) a program of drug and alcohol education, grades 9-12; (2) the identification and referral of pupils involved with drugs or alcohol; (3) the examination of pupils suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and (4) the treatment and discipline of pupils who consume, use, possess or distribute drugs or alcohol in violation of law or this policy.

School policy and administrative procedures regarding drugs and alcohol shall be reviewed and evaluated annually and shall be available to all staff members, pupils and parents.

* For the purpose of this policy, “drugs” includes all dangerous controlled substances set forth at N.J.S.A. 24:21-1, and all chemicals that release toxic vapors set forth at N.J.S.A.2A: 170-25.9 et seq.

Approved and Adopted 10/31/89; Reviewed 6/91; Reviewed 1/92; 1/94; 12/06, rev 12/08, rev 12/09, rev 6/10

signature required on reverse side -> ->

Procedures For Implementing Policy #100DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

State of New Jersey Chapter 40A – Substance Abuse

Article 2. Prevention and Treatment Referral Programs

18A:40A-12 Reporting of pupils under influence; examination; report; return home; evaluation of possible need for treatment; referral for treatment.

Whenever it shall appear to any teaching staff member, school nurse or other educational personnel of any public school in this State that a pupil may be under the influence of substances as defined pursuant to section 2 of this act, that teaching staff member, school nurse or other educational personnel shall report the matter as soon as possible to the school nurse or medical inspector, as the case may be, or to a student assistance counselor, and to the principal or in his absence, to his designee. The principal or his designee shall immediately notify the parent or guardian and the superintendent of schools, if there be one or the administrative principal and shall arrange for an immediate examination of the pupil by the Medical Review Officer (physician) at the contracted lab (JFK Occupational Health Services). If the parent or guardian refuses to use the school contracted lab, the pupil shall be taken to the emergency room of the nearest hospital for immediate examination accompanied by a member of the school staff designated by the principal and a parent or guardian of the pupil. The pupil shall be examined immediately for the purpose of diagnosing whether or not the pupil is under such influence.

A written report of that examination shall be furnished within 24 hours by the examining physician to the parent or guardian of the pupil and to the superintendent of schools or administrative principal. If it is determined that the pupil was under the influence of a substance, the pupil shall be returned to his or her home as soon as possible and shall not resume attendance at school until the pupil submits to the principal a written report certifying that he or she is physically and mentally able to return thereto, which report shall be prepared by a personal physician or the physician who examined the pupil pursuant to the provisions of this act. **Payment is the responsibility of the student’s parent/guardian (positive or negative results).**

In addition, the pupil shall be interviewed by a student assistance counselor or another appropriately trained teaching staff member for the purpose of determining the extent of the pupil’s involvement with these substances and possible need for treatment. In order to make this determination the counselor or other teaching staff member may conduct a reasonable investigation which may include interviews with the pupil’s teachers and parents. The counselor or other teaching staff member may also consult with such experts in the field of substance abuse as may be necessary and appropriate. If it is determined that the pupil’s involvement with and use of these substances represents a danger to the pupil’s health and well-being, the counselor or other teaching staff member shall refer the pupil to an appropriate treatment program which has been approved by the Commissioner of Health.

L.1987, c.387, 5, effective January 13, 1988.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Signature _____

(Please print student’s name) _____ **Date** _____