

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School
Policy S12: Student Substance Use Policy
Adopted: September 17, 2020

- A. It shall be the policy of the Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School to take positive action through education, counseling, parental involvement, intervention, medical referral, and police referral in the handling of incidents in the schools involving the possession, sale, distribution and/or use of behavior affecting substances.
- B. It shall further be the policy of the school for all students in the system to be provided age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and to be provided with information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol. These programs shall also provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling rehabilitation and re-entry programs available to students.

C. Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, and Stimulant Drugs

- 1. A student shall not possess, sell, use, distribute, or be under the influence of any legal or illegal drug in any form whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any narcotic drug, inhalants, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, cocaine, marijuana, other controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroids, intoxicant of any kind, or any substance represented to be or reasonably appearing to be any type of drug:
 - a. at school or on school property at any time;
 - b. off the school grounds at a school sponsored activity, function, or event; and/or
 - c. en route to and from school.
- 2. A student shall not attend school or any school event after having consumed any quantity of alcohol or illegal substance. Use may be detected by observation, odor or other means.
- 3. A student shall not have on his/her person, or in any way be in possession or control of drug-related paraphernalia.
- 4. A student shall be deemed to be in possession of substances or paraphernalia prohibited by this policy if such substances or paraphernalia are found in cars, lockers, book bags, desks or other personal effects of students.
- 5. Any student required to take medication while at school will follow the guidelines and procedures distributed to students and parents/guardians. Any possession or use of prescription or over the counter medication not in accordance with the provisions of such guidelines and procedures shall be deemed a violation of this policy, and the student will be subject to the disciplinary actions set forth in this policy.

D. Student Tobacco Use

1. In accordance with the "Georgia Smoke Free Air Act of 2005", smoking and vaping shall be prohibited at any time in any school building or property owned or leased by the Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School, including outdoor events held in stadiums, or at any time in any school-owned vehicle, including any school buses. In addition, this policy prohibits the use of other tobacco products.

E. **Discipline Action and Procedures**

1. All employees must report violations of this policy to the principal or assistant principal of the school where the violation occurred. If the principal has reasonable cause to believe that a report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the Superintendent and to the police and district attorney.
2. The student's parents or guardian will be notified immediately of his/her child's involvement in any illegal drug activity.
3. Students will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct, which includes a statement of prohibited conduct with regard to drugs and alcohol and possible disciplinary actions.
4. Compliance with the requirements set forth in this policy is mandatory.