

Adopted: 7/16/2026

Revised:

**ROCHESTER BEACON ACADEMY
POLICY No. 417
CHEMICAL USE AND ABUSE**

I. PURPOSE

The Rochester Beacon Academy (RBA) board of directors recognizes that chemical use and abuse constitutes a grave threat to the physical and mental well-being of students and employees and significantly impedes the learning process. Chemical use and abuse also create significant problems for society in general. The board believes that the public school has a role in education, intervention, and prevention of chemical use and abuse. The purpose of this policy is to assist RBA in its goal to prevent chemical use and abuse by providing procedures for education and intervention.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Use or possession of controlled substances, toxic substance, medical cannabis, and alcohol before, during, or after school hours, at school or in any other school location, is prohibited in accordance with RBA policies with respect to a Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
- B. RBA shall develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement.
- C. Every charter school that participates in a charter school chemical abuse program shall establish and maintain in every school a chemical abuse preassessment team. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
- D. RBA shall establish a drug-free awareness program for its employees.

[Note: Charter schools are required to establish a drug-free awareness program for charter school employees pursuant to the Drug-Free Workplace Act. In addition, state law requires that the written charter school discipline policy must include procedures for detecting and addressing chemical abuse problems of a student while on the school premises. Further, charter schools are required to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement if receiving funding under the federal Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants law.]

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Chemical abuse," as applied to students, means use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, without compelling medical reason, in a manner that induces mental, emotional, or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional or socially disordering behavior, to the extent that the minor's normal function in academic, school, or social activities is chronically impaired.
- B. "Controlled substances," as applied to the chemical abuse assessment of students, means a drug, substance, or immediate precursor in Schedules I through V of Minnesota Statutes section 152.02 and "marijuana" as defined in Minnesota Statutes

section 152.01, subdivision 9 but not distilled spirits, wine, malt beverages, intoxicating liquors or tobacco. As otherwise defined in this policy, "controlled substances" include narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code section 812, including analogues and look-alike drugs.

- C. "Drug prevention" means prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation referral, recovery support services, or education related to the illegal use of drugs, such as raising awareness about the consequences of drug use that are evidence based.
- D. "Teacher" means all persons employed in a public school or education district or by a service cooperative as members of the instructional, supervisory, and support staff including executive directors, principals, supervisors, secondary vocational and other classroom teachers, librarians, counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, school social workers, audio-visual directors and coordinators, recreation personnel, media generalists, media supervisors, and speech therapists.

IV. STUDENTS

A. RBA Discipline Policy

Procedures for detecting and addressing chemical abuse problems of a student while on school premises are included in RBA's student discipline policy.

B. Programs and Activities

1. RBA shall develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievements. The programs and activities may include, among other programs and activities, drug prevention activities and programs that may be evidence based, including programs to educate students against the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, smokeless tobacco products, and electronic cigarettes.
2. As part of its drug-free programs, RBA may implement the drug abuse resistance education program (DARE) that enables peace officers to undergo the training to teach a curriculum on drug abuse resistance in schools.

C. Reports of Use, Possession, or Transfer of Alcohol or a Controlled Substance

1. A teacher in a nonpublic school participating in a charter school chemical use program, or a public school teacher, who knows or has reason to believe that a student is using, possessing, or transferring alcohol or a controlled substance while on the school premises or involved in school-related activities, shall immediately notify administration of this information.
2. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution, or sale of chemicals may be suspended and proposed for expulsion in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes section 121A.40-121A.56, and proposed for expulsion.
3. Searches by RBA administrators in connection with the use, possession, or transfer of alcohol or a controlled substance will be conducted in accordance with school board policies related to search and seizure.
4. Nothing in paragraph IV.B.1. prevents a teacher or any other school employee from reporting to a law enforcement agency any violation of law occurring on school premises or at school sponsored events.

D. Response

1. Administration is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
3. Within forty-five (45) days after receiving an individual reported case, administration shall make a determination whether to provide the student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents with information about school and community services in connection with chemical abuse.

E. Data Practices

1. Student data may be disclosed without consent in health and safety emergencies pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.32 and applicable federal law and regulations.
2. Destruction of Records
 - a. If the preassessment team decides not to provide a student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents with information about school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the determination is made.
 - b. If the team decides to provide the student and, in the case of a minor or a dependent student, the student's parents with information about school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the student is no longer enrolled in the charter school.
 - c. Destruction of records identifying individual students shall be governed by paragraph IV.E.2. notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes section 138.163 (Preservation and Disposal of Public Records).

F. Consent

Any minor may give effective consent for medical, mental, and other health services to determine the presence of or to treat conditions associated with alcohol and other drug abuse, and the consent of no other person is required.

V. EMPLOYEES

- A. RBA shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
 1. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace.
 2. RBA's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace.
 3. Available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs.
 4. The penalties that may be imposed on employees for drug abuse violations.
- B. RBA shall notify a federal granting agency required to be notified under the Drug-Free Workplace Act within ten (10) days after receiving notice from the employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of any criminal drug statute conviction occurring in the workplace.

Legal References:

- Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)
- Minn. Stat. § 121A.25-121A.29 (Chemical Abuse)
- Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
- Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.695 (Approved Recovery Program Funding)
- Minn. Stat. § 126C.44 (Safe Schools Levy)
- Minn. Stat. § 138.163 (Preservation and Disposal of Public Records)
- Minn. Stat. § 144.343 (Pregnancy, Venereal Disease, Alcohol or Drug Abuse, Abortion)
- Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)
- Minn. Stat. § 152.02 (Schedules of Controlled Substances; Administration of Chapter)
- Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)
- Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)
- Minn. Stat. § 299A.33 (DARE Program)
- Minn. Stat. § 466.07, subd. 1 (Indemnification Required)
- Minn. Stat. § 609.101, subd. 3(e) (Controlled Substance Offenses; Minimum Fines)
- 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
- 20 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7122 (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)
- 20 U.S.C. § 5812 (National Education Goals)
- 20 U.S.C. § 7175 (Local Activities)
- 41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106 (Drug-Free Workplace Act)
- 34 C.F.R. Part 84 (Government-Wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace)