

**DRUG FREE ENVIRONMENT AND DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAM**AP No.  
3550

Board Reviewed: 8/12/09

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- I. The District is committed to providing its employees and students with a drug free workplace and campus environment. It emphasizes prevention and intervention through education.
- II. The Superintendent/President or designee is authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees (consistent with local, state and federal law).
- III. What could happen if you abuse alcohol or drugs?  
There are many reasons for NOT abusing drugs or alcohol. Significant health risks associated with the abuse of these substances include the following:
- IV. Long term abuse of alcohol may cause:
  - liver damage                      heart disease
  - ulcers or gastritis              malnutrition
  - delirium tremens                cancer
  - brain damage.
- V. Long term use of drugs may:
  - lower one's resistance to disease
  - cause malnutrition or damage various organs.
- VI. Both drugs and alcohol may be damaging to the development of an unborn fetus. Physical and psychological addiction to these substances is clearly a risk. Relationship problems, financial difficulties are often associated with substance abuse.
- VII. Rio Hondo College's Policy . . .

The following conduct shall constitute good cause for discipline, including but not limited to the removal, suspension or expulsion of a student.

- Unlawful possession, use, sale, offer to sell, or furnishing, or being under the influence of, any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the California Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind; or unlawful possession of, or offering, arranging or negotiating the sale of any drug paraphernalia, as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.

- VIII. What the College will do . . .  
If you violate these policies, you may be subject to corrective action, up to and including suspension or expulsion. It is important to note that the College is prepared to impose disciplinary action as it deems fit. The following state laws may be applicable.

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**OFFENSE**-Possession of Drugs/CODE-Health & Safety Code Sec. 11377, 11350, 11357/PENALTY-2-10 years or fines;

**OFFENSE**-Possession for Sale/CODE-Health & Safety Code Sec. 11378, 11351, 11359/PENALTY-2-10 years

**OFFENSE**-Sale of Drugs/CODE-Health & Safety Code Sec. 11379, 11352, 11360/PENALTY-5 years to life

**OFFENSE**-Driving under the influence of any drug or alcohol/CODE-Calif. Vehicle Code Section 23152/PENALTY-Jail time, fines, loss of license

**OFFENSE**-Being under the influence in a public place or unable to care for self or safety of others-i.e., liquors, any drugs/CODE-Calif. Penal Code Sec. 647f/PENALTY-Misdemeanor, possible jail time

Other state or federal laws may apply. For list of laws, consult the library.

IX. Prohibition of Drugs

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of alcohol or any controlled substance is prohibited on District property, during District-sponsored field trips, activities or workshops, and in any facility or vehicle operated by the District.

- X. Violation of this prohibition will result in appropriate action up to and including termination of employment, expulsion, and referral for prosecution, or, as permitted by law, may require satisfactory participation in an alcohol or drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

- XI. As a condition of employment, employees must notify the District within five days of any conviction for violating a criminal drug statute while in the workplace. The District is required to inform any agencies that require this drug-free policy within ten days after receiving notice of a workplace drug conviction.

XI. References:

Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment, 1989 20 U.S. Code Section 1145g and 34 Code of Federal Regulations 86.1 et seq.; Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act, 1988, 41 U.S. Code Section 702