

STUDENTS AND ILLICIT DRUGS

The Cherokee CSD prohibits the possession, use, distribution, sale or being under the influence of illicit drugs and/or the possession of paraphernalia designed for the manufacture or use of illicit drugs by students at school. This prohibition also applies to students while engaged at any school-sponsored activities regardless of the location of said activities, on school grounds, and while on school-owned or chartered/leased transportation. Students shall also be prohibited from possessing, using, distributing or selling substances, which are being purported to be illicit drugs while at school or while at the other venues identified above. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action as identified in this policy, and if, applicable, as identified in Policy 503.4, Good Conduct Rule. In addition to the school district's disciplinary action, students found to be in violation of this policy shall also be reported to local law enforcement authorities.

Students found in violation of this policy shall be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

A. Possession of Paraphernalia

Any student found in possession of paraphernalia designed for the manufacture or use of illicit drugs when said paraphernalia does not contain any actual illicit drug substance or identifiable residue of an illicit drug substance, shall be suspended from school for a period of not less than five (5) school days. Repeated and/or flagrant violations will result in more severe disciplinary consequence including the possibility of expulsion.

B. Substances Purported to be Illicit Drugs

Any student found to be in possession, to be using, to be distributing or selling substances that the student represents to be actual illicit drugs shall be suspended from school for a period of not less than seven (7) school days. In addition to the suspension prior to readmission to school, the student or legal caretaker if the student is not of majority age, shall be required to submit documentation that the student has undergone a substance abuse evaluation, and to provide written agreement to complete any subsequent recommended program of treatment both at no expense to the district. Repeated and/or flagrant violations will result in more severe disciplinary consequences including the possibility of expulsion.

C. Illicit Drugs-possession, use, or Being Under the Influence

Any student found to be in possession, to be using, or to be under the influence of an illicit drug or drugs, to include identifiable residue, regardless of the amount of said drug, shall be expelled from school with loss of credits. In the event that the expulsion occurs with fewer than thirty school days remaining in a semester, the student shall be excluded from school for the remainder of the semester with the opportunity to complete courses for that semester with district-provided tutorial services for up to five hours per school week, and then shall serve his or her expulsion term the next full semester, with no opportunity to earn credits. In the event that the expulsion occurs with thirty or more school days remaining in a semester, the expulsion shall be for the remainder of the semester with loss of credits for that semester.

Depending upon the age of the student, the educational background of the student, or the nature of the offense, the Board may, in limited situations, agree to exclude rather than expel the student from school for a period of one semester and provide an educational program for the student at a location different than the student's normal educational setting if recommended by the superintendent of schools.

In addition to the expulsion, prior to readmission to school the student or legal caretaker if the student is not of majority age, shall be required to submit documentation that the student has undergone a substance abuse evaluation, and to provide evidence of completion of any recommended treatment program, both at no expense to the district.

Repeated violations, flagrant violations, or violations with other special circumstances may result in more severe disciplinary consequences including the possibility of permanent expulsion at the discretion of the Board of Education.

D. Illicit Drugs – Sale or Distribution

Any student found to be selling, or distributing without cost, illicit drugs shall be expelled from school with loss of credits. In the event that the expulsion occurs with fewer than thirty school days remaining in a semester, the student shall be excluded from school for the remainder of the semester with the opportunity to complete courses for that semester with district provided tutorial services for up to five hours per school week, and then shall serve his or her expulsion term during the next two semesters with no opportunity to earn credits. In the event that the expulsion occurs with thirty or more school days remaining in a semester, the expulsion shall be for the remainder of that semester and the entire next semester, all with loss of credits.

In addition to the expulsion, prior to re-admission to school the student or legal caretaker, if the student is not of majority age, shall be required to submit documentation that the student has undergone a substance abuse evaluation, and to provide evidence of completion of any recommended treatment program, both at no expense to the district.

Repeated violations, flagrant violations, or violations with other special circumstances may result in more severe disciplinary consequences including the possibility of permanent expulsion, at the discretion of the Board of Education.