

## Suggestions for Parents

- Talk to your child about the consequences for violating school policies and state laws regarding alcohol and other drug use.
- Set clear standards of behavior concerning alcohol and other drug use and consistently enforce consequences for violating those standards.
- Get to know your child's friends and always know where your child is.
- Keep in touch with other parents about parties to ensure they will be supervised and alcohol- and drug-free.
- Encourage your child to be involved in positive activities, such as clubs, sports, youth groups, art, drama, music and hobbies, both at school and in the community.
- Keep lines of communication with your teen open and be a good listener.

## Remember

- Contributing to the delinquency of a minor by purchasing, selling, providing or giving an alcoholic beverage to any youth under age 21 is punishable by up to one year in jail and fines up to \$2,500.



## Information For Parents



The mission of SAFE is to engage our community in working together to prevent substance abuse.

**Substance Abuse Free Environment Inc.**

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SAFE is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization eligible for tax deductible contributions.

## You Need to Know



Our community and schools are safer and provide a better environment for learning and healthy youth development when they are free from alcohol and drugs. As a parent, you need to know that Chesterfield County takes a strong stand against illegal drug use and underage drinking both in the schools and the community. Youths in Chesterfield County are held responsible and accountable for their actions. Most students choose not to use alcohol or drugs, but it's important that parents are aware of what happens if they do.

SAFE highlights the consequences of drug and alcohol use through its Use, You Lose campaign. Large Use, You Lose signs are posted inside all Chesterfield County school buses. Use, You Lose is printed on the back of student parking permits, reminding students that if they use drugs or alcohol they will lose their right to park on school property. The campaign also includes T-shirts, bookcovers, stickers and posters.

## Consequences in the Schools

When students violate the Chesterfield County Public Schools' drug and alcohol policy (please refer to the Standards for Student Conduct for exact wording), the following may occur:

### Expulsion

In accordance with state law, a student who possesses any controlled substance or marijuana at any time while on school property or at a school-sponsored activity must be expelled.

### Suspension

**A student may be suspended from school for 10 days the first time he or she**

- Is under the influence of any illegal drug or controlled substance
- Is in possession of, using, or under the influence of alcohol
- Refuses drug testing when a principal has reasonable suspicion that the student may be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol

A second violation may result in a recommendation for expulsion.

### All suspended violators will

- Be referred to a substance abuse intervention program
- Be referred with their parent(s) to the superintendent or designee
- Be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities for 45 days
- Lose their permit to park on school property for 365 days and forfeit parking fees

**In addition, any involvement with an illegal substance will result in referral to law enforcement officials.**

Students who are suspended from extracurricular activities will not be able to participate in school sports, extracurricular music, art or drama groups or school clubs. They also will not be permitted to attend school dances, athletic events or special events during the period of their suspension.

## Consequences in the Community



Students face consequences for illegal drug use and underage drinking in the community as well as in the schools.

For anyone under age 21, it is a violation of law to

- Buy, possess or drink an alcoholic beverage
- Possess or use a false identification card or birth certificate
- Operate a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol (anything over .02 blood-alcohol content) or a controlled substance
- Possess, sell or use a controlled substance

Under state law, a juvenile may lose the privilege to obtain a driver's license or continue driving if he or she commits an alcohol- or other drug-related offense, even if it is not vehicle-related.

Consequences include

- For youths of driving age, a minimum of six-months suspension of driving privileges
- For youths 15 years old and younger, a delay of at least six months to apply for a driver's license

Chesterfield County juvenile court judges always suspend driver's licenses for any alcohol- or drug-related offense, no exceptions. They do not grant restricted driving privileges for any reason to juveniles whose licenses have been suspended.

In addition to license-related penalties, the court may impose additional penalties for alcohol and drug violations, depending on the type of offense.