

# The Santa Cruz City Schools Co-Curricular Policy Highlights

**WHY** - The goal of Santa Cruz City Schools is to create a safe environment for all students. The reduction of use of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs among students attending is key to creating an optimum learning environment. The Seven Challenges is part of our school substance use prevention/intervention procedure. It is a strength-based curriculum that may allow students an early return to the classroom and maintain their involvement in athletics and co-curricular activities.

**WHO** - Students identified as being under the influence of controlled substances during school hours or at school events will have the option of being suspended with limited impact on school participation and athletic eligibility by completing The Seven Challenges program.

**WHAT** - The Seven Challenges curriculum is a common sense, decision-making approach to working with teen alcohol and drug issues. The program is a partnership between Santa Cruz City Schools, and County Alcohol and Drug Programs and guides youth through a process that helps them look at their substance use, reflect on the impact and consequences and focus on personal goals. Students meet in a small group setting to discuss issues, journal about their thoughts and experiences and are provided adult guidance and support. The Seven Challenges is a collaborative response between school administration, parents, and the student to addressing the use or possession of alcohol and other drugs.

**HOW** - Once the parent/guardian agrees to student participation and signs the consent forms, the student will be responsible for adhering to all school board policy in addition to the following guidelines of the Co- Curricular Policy Program:

## **First Offense: Restitution for dishonoring uniform and co-curricular activity**

Imposes a consequence of a 10 school day suspension from participation in co-curricular activities reduced to 5 school days if:

- The Student participates in a mandatory alcohol and drug screening
- Completes The Seven Challenges Program
- Attends all practices that do not interfere with The Seven Challenges Program
- Attends all games/events during the suspension and is not allowed to participate

## **Second Offense: Intervenes in potentially hazardous pattern of behavior**

- Accomplish objectives within 1<sup>st</sup> offense consequence; suspension increased to 20 school days
- Mandatory alcohol and drug assessment and referral
- Attend alcohol and other drug counseling with Youth Services or other indicated program

## **Third Offense: Protects integrity of team and co-curricular activity**

- Accomplish all objectives of 1 and 2
- Mandatory drug and alcohol treatment program
- Referral for expulsion from school athletics

If student does not attend all assigned sessions they will be referred back to the Assistant Principal for failure to participate. For more information contact Brenda Armstrong, Santa Cruz County Alcohol and Drug Program at: 454-5483 or [Brenda.Armstrong@health.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:Brenda.Armstrong@health.co.santa-cruz.ca.us).

## **THE SEVEN CHALLENGES**



We decided to open up and talk honestly about ourselves and about alcohol and other drugs.



We looked at what we liked about alcohol and other drugs, and why we were using them.



We looked at our use of alcohol or other drugs to see if it has caused harm or could cause harm.



We looked at our responsibility and the responsibility of others for our problems.



We thought about where we seemed to be headed, where we wanted to go, and what we wanted to accomplish.



We made thoughtful decisions about our lives and about our use of alcohol and other drugs.



We followed through on our decisions about our lives and drug use. If we saw problems, we went back to earlier challenges and mastered them.