

Catalyst High School
Illegal Use of Drugs Policy
Revised July 15, 2010

The Catalyst High School Illegal Use of Drugs Policy was adopted July 1, 2009. The policy is written to be clear and concise; it is not intended to be open for negotiation with individual students or parents. The policy is reviewed annually by the Catalyst High School Board of Directors. Parents/guardians must agree to all terms of the Illegal Use of Drugs Policy as a condition for a student attending Catalyst High School.

Values and Philosophy

1. Catalyst is an independent high school that emphasizes good health as a foundation for good academics. Catalyst may be a suitable high school for a student who has a history of illegal substance abuse but is now committed to sobriety and whose primary support system (usually parents) fully supports this drug policy.
2. As opposed to an on-line school, where the student “attends school” in the privacy of his or her own home, Catalyst High School exists as a supportive community of adults and teens. As such, Catalyst High School looks out for the health and safety needs of the entire population of students. Its students, parents and other stakeholders want Catalyst to be a safe and welcoming place that is free of issues related to illegal use of drugs. It is the school’s responsibility to provide that atmosphere.
3. The Policy is designed to encourage and reinforce appropriate behavior regarding illegal drug usage. To do so, it is necessary to know who is in violation, by way of mandatory screening for illegal drugs.
4. While Catalyst High School supports an environment free of illegal drugs, we are an institution of academics and learning and do not provide *primary* therapeutic treatment for substance abuse-related issues. We will make every effort to provide support to students, as well as their parents, who are committed to discontinuing illegal substance use by providing referrals for resources in the community, as well as offering limited in-house counseling support.
5. Catalyst High School encourages full disclosure regarding the student’s or student applicant’s past and current academic strengths and challenges; physical, emotional, and mental health-related issues; legal and illegal drug use; and stressors. Further, the school encourages honest, open communication between the family and the school and maintains good communication among the school staff, outside therapists and health professionals to support each student’s health and long-term wellness.
6. Illegal drug use/abuse is considered a health-related concern. As such, each student who is suspended from school for illegal drug use will meet with a Catalyst Counselor on a periodic basis throughout the suspension period. The Catalyst principal and counselors share therapeutic and medical information, which may include information regarding drug usage by a student. This information will be shared with Catalyst teachers and staff as needed.
7. Our goal is *to help* the student who is struggling or experimenting with illegal drugs. We do this by making the truth known, supporting health-related goals with counseling support, helping the student identify reasons for the drug usage, and teaching the student how to replace illegal drug use with healthy behaviors.
8. We ask that parents accept our position as nonjudgmental and based only on need to know. We believe that real trust can be built most quickly by knowing the truth, and we believe that parental cooperation will help reduce the student's anxiety around this matter.

Policy Guidelines

1. All students are required to be screened within one week prior to the start of attending Catalyst High School. Per normal screening procedures, the student/parent will pay for the “10-panel screen” (currently \$30). Catalyst will reimburse the full cost for “negative” results. See 7 below.
2. For a student to begin attending classes, A or B must apply: A. All drugs screened must be determined by ChemaTox Laboratories, Inc. to be “negative”; B. In the case that an initial screen for cannabinoids (in marijuana) is considered “positive,” a level of positive (“the number”) will be obtained by the school from ChemaTox Laboratories, and a required follow-up screen must show a cannabinoids level that is significantly closer (defined by the school administration) to “negative” than on the initial screen. In this situation, a third screen, and subsequent screens if necessary, will be required with a continued significant downward trend in the number, until cannabinoids screens as “negative.”
3. Any student may be required by the school administration to be screened upon reasonable suspicion. All students will be screened at least twice every 12 months. Any student who has produced “positive” results in the past may be required to be screened upon return from any break without cause.
4. A student may be required to take a drug screen for behaviors that may be consistent with drug usage such as, but not limited to: unusual and otherwise unexplainable behavior; a drop in attendance; a drop grades; irritable, erratic or abnormal behavior; suspicion (appearance, odor, etc.) of being under the influence; or for any reason determined by school administration.
5. Should the school find reason to suspect illegal use of drugs by a student, a meeting may be requested by the school and/or parent/guardian to discuss the matter. After investigation and due consideration -- with or without a meeting actually taking place and regardless of the opinion of the student of 18 years of age or otherwise the parent/guardian -- Catalyst High School retains the exclusive right to decide whether to require the screen.
6. The drug screen will take place at ChemaTox Laboratory, Inc. in Boulder within 48 hours of the decision by the school. The student/parent will pay for the screen at ChemaTox at the time of the screen. By signing this policy agreement, the parent/student agrees to have ChemaTox send the results directly to the Catalyst High School administrator.
7. The school will reimburse the student/parent for any screen that is determined by ChemaTox to be “negative.” For reimbursement, the cost of the screen may be deducted from the next month’s tuition payment upon presentation of the ChemaTox receipt. The student/parents will assume the cost for any payment for any screen determined by ChemaTox to be “positive”.
8. At Catalyst High School, a legal drug shall be considered a pharmaceutical that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), prescribed by a doctor and used as prescribed. Marijuana is not approved by the FDA and thus may not be used by any student, employee, contractor, or volunteer, under any circumstances, while attending or while working or volunteering at Catalyst High School. Illegal drugs include prescription and over the counter drugs, if taken in a manner other than for its intended purpose or by someone other than as prescribed, as well alcoholic beverages consumed by someone under the age of 21, and substances that create effects or behavior similar to illegal drugs.
9. A student’s parent or guardian should report any prescribed drugs to ChemaTox at the time of the screening.
10. If a student tests positive for an illegal drug, the school will require the student to take a follow-up screen at a time determined by the school, often two weeks later. This process may be repeated. It is expected that positive levels will diminish between tests and remain negative when attained.
11. A student/parent may ask ChemaTox to confirm their results by retesting the original sample. For this, there will be an additional cost, to be borne by the parent. ChemaTox is a Forensic Toxicology Testing

Center that works with law enforcement and courts on a regular basis. The likelihood for “false positives” or error is minimal and their expert conclusions generally stand up in court.

12. To monitor a “clean” status, the student may participate in periodic drug screens. Such a program will be by agreement with the parents. In such a case, Catalyst High School will not necessarily pay for “negative” results.
13. A student will be suspended from the school for an initial positive on a drug screen. A student who is thus suspended is expected to stay in communication with teachers via email and to continue academic work as contracted. To receive credit for courses underway during the period of suspension, the student must complete community service for a number of hours similar to the number of hours of school missed due to suspension. During the period of suspension, the student will be prohibited from coming to school, or to any school related activities, except with written permission by the principal, violation of which will be grounds for trespassing.
14. A student who tests positive for illegal drug use will be required to meet with a Catalyst counselor at an off-campus location to discuss and implement a Relapse Prevention Plan.
15. Regular tuition payments will continue as normally expected during the period of time a student is suspended from school.
16. The Catalyst administration may investigate a concern of possible illegal drug use based on anonymous and confidential information. Catalyst administration may require that a student take a drug screen based on anonymous information.
17. Any behavior interpreted as bullying, coercing, threatening, or intimidating by one student toward another student may be grounds for immediate expulsion from school. Specifically, this may relate to retaliatory behavior associated with illegal drug use and its reporting, investigation or consequences.
18. A student who is found to be under the influence of a controlled substance while in school will be considered in possession.
19. A student found to be in possession of a controlled substance while in school, on or adjacent to school property, or during a school-related function will be suspended, may be expelled from school, and may be reported to law enforcement.
20. A student who distributes (sells, shares, gives, etc.) a controlled substance to anyone else while in school, on or adjacent to school property, or during a school-related function will be suspended immediately. That student may be subsequently expelled from school and the incident reported to law enforcement.
21. The school will do its part to maintain confidentiality throughout the drug screening process, counseling process, and discipline process. The student in question is encouraged by Catalyst High School to exercise similar discretion. Catalyst High School is not responsible for information among the general population based on information shared by the subject student.
22. A student's/family's refusal to follow this policy will be considered a withdrawal from Catalyst High School, and any tuition and fees paid will be forfeited. (Security deposit will be returned per agreement.)
23. A student who chooses to be administratively withdrawn rather than comply with the screening policy *may re-apply* for admission to Catalyst High School after a minimum of three months. If re-admitted to Catalyst High School, new tuition will be required.