



1777 W. Baseline St., San Bernardino, CA 92411

## School Policy on the Dangers of Synthetic Drugs

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe, healthy, and drug-free learning environment by educating students about the dangers of synthetic drugs and enforcing strict prohibitions against their use, possession, distribution, or influence on school property. This policy aligns with **California Education Code (Ed. Code) § 48900(c), (p), and § 48915** regarding substance abuse prevention and disciplinary actions.

### 2. Definition of Synthetic Drugs

Synthetic drugs refer to man-made substances designed to mimic the effects of illegal drugs. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Synthetic cannabinoids** (e.g., K2, Spice)
- **Synthetic stimulants** (e.g., Bath Salts, Flakka)
- **Synthetic opioids** (e.g., Fentanyl analogs)

These substances are often marketed as "safe" or "legal" alternatives but pose severe health risks, including addiction, psychosis, overdose, and death.

### 3. Prohibited Conduct

Students, faculty, and staff are prohibited from:

- Possessing, using, distributing, or selling synthetic drugs on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or while representing the school.
- Being under the influence of synthetic drugs while on school property or during school activities.
- Encouraging or assisting others in acquiring or using synthetic drugs.

Per **Ed. Code § 48900(c)**, students engaged in drug-related activities may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

### 4. Prevention & Education

- The school will integrate **drug prevention education** into health and science curricula, as required by **Ed. Code § 51260**.
- Counselors and health professionals will provide resources and support for students struggling with substance use.

- Parents/guardians will receive informational materials about synthetic drugs and warning signs of abuse.

## 5. Enforcement & Disciplinary Actions

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary actions, including but not limited to:

- Immediate confiscation of the substance.
- Parent/guardian notification.
- Mandatory drug counseling or intervention programs, as recommended under **Ed. Code § 48916.5**.
- Suspension, expulsion, or legal action depending on the severity of the offense, in accordance with **Ed. Code § 48915**.
- Referral to law enforcement authorities if required by law.

## 6. Reporting & Support

- Students are encouraged to report any concerns regarding synthetic drug use to school staff confidentially.
- The school will provide access to counseling services for students in need of help with substance-related issues.

## Dangers of Synthetic Drugs

The illicit use and abuse of synthetic drugs represents an emerging and ongoing public health threat in California. The fentanyl crisis specifically, has impacted communities across the state, leading to a sharp increase in fentanyl poisonings and deaths in recent years. This notice aims to address the crisis with a preventative approach ensuring students and families are educated on the deadly consequences of recreational drug use.

A synthetic drug is a drug with properties and effects similar to a known hallucinogen or narcotic but having a slightly altered chemical structure, especially such a drug created in order to evade existing restrictions against illegal substances.

The California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) has expounded on the extreme danger of drugs laced with fentanyl. Illicit fentanyl can be added to other drugs to make them cheaper, more powerful, and more addictive. Illicit fentanyl has been found in many drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine, counterfeit pills, and cocaine. Fentanyl mixed with any drug increases the likelihood of a fatal overdose. Furthermore, it is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl without additional testing, because fentanyl cannot be seen, smelled or tasted when used as a lacing agent. Social media platforms may be used as a way to market and sell synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl.

Additional information regarding fentanyl from the CDPH’s Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch can be found on the California Dept. Of Public Health website.

By enforcing this policy, the school aims to protect students from the dangers of synthetic drugs and promote a safe learning environment.