DRUG ABUSE POLICY AND PREVENTION

Currently, RSA is proud to report that it maintains a totally drug-free student population. We are aware that substance abuse is a complicated health and medical problem. Therefore, anyone knowing or suspecting drug or alcohol abuse should report it immediately to the Roshei HaYeshiva.

Included in our drug and alcohol policies are standards of conduct that clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs/alcohol by students. Applicable legal sanctions under local, State and Federal law for unlawful possession, use and distribution of such drugs and alcohol are described, as are the health risks associated with such use.

RSA will impose disciplinary sanctions on student and employees who violate these standards of conduct, up to and including expulsion, termination of employment, and referral for prosecution.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE COUNSELING:

Our institution is committed to helping students deal with life's problems in a mature, sensible manner. The thrust of our institutional counseling effort is directed at prevention, rather than treatment. We take a very positive view on the counseling process. In addition, all faculty members have been trained to be sensitive to the physical and emotional well-being of our students and to assist as appropriate.

If students need assistance, we expect them to come to us. We will refer them for counseling. If a student does not come forward, but we discover that the student has a problem, they will be required to seek professional assistance before returning to school.

For counseling and treatment, students and/or employees are directed to Rabbi Elisha Feinberg, Mashgiach, who provides references to qualified professional counseling.

LEGAL PENALTIES FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Please remember that local, state and federal laws are constantly changing. The trend in legislation, law enforcement and the courts for illegal use of drugs is toward harsher penalties, larger fines and longer periods of incarceration. By law if someone is using illegal drugs all those with him could be arrested, even those not participating. A conviction causes you to have a permanent criminal record.

Federal Penalties: There are severe penalties for illegal drug use and trafficking with minimum sentences for many categories. Illegal possession of a controlled substance

carries a penalty of up to one year of imprisonment and a fine of at least $1000. Students may lose their Title IV eligibility. Repeat offenses carry even greater penalties.

State Penalties: New York State law prohibits the unlawful possession, use, manufacture, sale, or distribution of controlled substances. Criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree, a Class A misdemeanor, is punishable by up to one year of imprisonment and a fine of up to **$1,000**. More serious possession and distribution offenses are classified as felonies and may result in substantial prison terms and fines ranging from **$5,00**0 to **$100,000**, depending on the offense. The unlawful sale of a controlled substance is generally a felony offense. Enhanced penalties may apply for repeat offenders, offenses involving minors, and offenses committed on or near school grounds

Local Penalties: Local ordinances may range from fines for possessing or consuming alcohol in public places, including possessing an open container of an alcoholic beverage in violation of New York City law, to more severe penalties for alcohol-related offenses involving disorderly conduct, public safety violations, or impaired driving. Such violations may result in fines, court appearances, and other legal sanctions.

HEALTH RISKS

Illicit drugs:

Numerous independent studies have documented the serious health consequences posed by the use of illicit drugs: addiction/ dependence, physiological damage, and intellectual, psychological, or emotional breakdown. Altered perception and behavior under the influence of certain drugs can also cause accidents. The health hazards of specific drugs are listed in this appendix.

Alcohol:

Alcohol (ethanol) is toxic to the human body. It is a central nervous system depressant that slows bodily functions such as heart rate, pulse, and respiration. Taken in large quantities, it progressively causes intoxication, sedation, and unconsciousness - and can lead to death. Alcoholics can consume large quantities of alcohol without appearing to be drunk or uncontrolled. Nevertheless, alcoholism causes severe emotional, physical, and psychological damage. Prolonged heavy drinking can damage various organs, resulting in disorders such as cirrhosis of the liver, heart disease, pancreatitis, and cancer. It can also lead to gastrointestinal irritation (nausea, diarrhea, gastritis), malnutrition, high blood pressure, lowered resistance to disease, and possible irreversible brain and nervous system damage. Alcoholism can also lead to a wide variety of problems involving one’s emotional, family, work, and social life.

Tobacco:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the American Psychiatric Association, and the World Health Organization have determined that nicotine, the chief component of tobacco cigarettes, is a highly addictive drug. Forty years ago, the first report of the U.S. Surgeon General was issued on the impact of tobacco use on health. This 1964 report presented stark conclusions: that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and is the most significant cause of chronic bronchitis. The report linked tobacco smoking with emphysema and other forms of cancer. The health hazards of tobacco use are now well documented and directly linked to the death of an estimated 390,000 Americans a year.

Recent studies have shown that mere exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is associated with the occurrence of many diseases, such as lung cancer and heart disease in nonsmokers and low birthrate in the offspring of nonsmokers. Because environmental tobacco smoke represents one of the strongest sources of indoor air contaminants in buildings where smoking is permitted, the College adopted a policy that prohibits smoking inside all College facilities (buildings). College presidents are free to impose a total ban on smoking on their grounds, or provide for limited smoking areas outside of buildings, a set distance from a building's entrance.