



April 24, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians of High School Seniors:

We are now just a little more than a month away from the beginning of high school graduation ceremonies, a time that is very special in the lives of every high school student and their family. The memories of the next few months will live with you and your children for decades to come, and everyone at Anne Arundel County Public Schools wants to do everything possible to make these days memorable. Our students have responsibilities in these waning days of their high school careers as well. It is incumbent upon them to abide by the Code of Student Conduct and adhere to all policies adopted by the Board of Education.

Policy 902.03-C/JCC-RAC deals with the use of alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, or other intoxicants. It is against the law and school policy for any student to use these substances at any time, and serious consequences can be imposed on those who are found to be in violation. In addition, there are serious implications for high school seniors with regard to taking part in graduation and related senior activities. The Regulation that accompanies Policy 902.03-C/JCC-RAC reads in part:

D.6. Penalty For Violation By Graduating Students

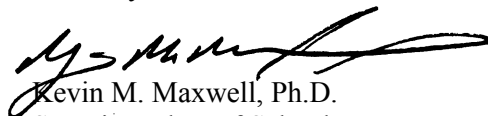
- a. **Graduating students who violate Board policies on possession, consumption, or distribution of alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, counterfeit controlled dangerous substances, non-controlled substances as defined by Article 27, Section 286B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, or other intoxicant at any time during the last four weeks of school prior to the last scheduled day for graduating students, or during the time between the last scheduled day and the graduation ceremony, whether the activity takes place on school buses, within a school building or upon any school property, or during any school, school related, or Board sponsored activity, whether held on school property or at locations off school property, including private clubs, businesses, or commercial establishments, shall be prohibited from participation in all senior activities, including proms, award ceremonies, and graduation ceremonies.**
- b. Diplomas earned by students denied participation in graduation ceremonies will be available upon request in the office of the appropriate school principal on the first workday following graduation ceremonies.

Because the last scheduled day for graduating students this year is May 30, 2013, the effective date under the “last four weeks” provision is May 1, 2013.

I do not want to see what should be a great time in the life of graduating seniors marred by immature and unwise decisions. More importantly, I don’t want to see any of our students engage in behavior that could have consequences for themselves or others. I encourage you to speak with your child about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and about the consequences that can result from poor decisions. I also encourage you to discuss with them the proper course of action should they find themselves in a situation where others are engaging in prohibited behavior (i.e., possession of alcohol or drugs in a vehicle). In such instances, students should report the activity to a school administrator immediately. Failure to do so could lead to sanctions outlined above.

I thank you for your partnership in this effort.

Sincerely,


Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

KMM/bm