

## Rockdale Recovery High School

121 Higgins Street, Worcester, MA 01606  
508-538-9102

### Relapse Policy

Rockdale Recovery High School recognizes that addicted persons often exhibit certain behaviors which have been understood to a) signal relapse, b) lead to relapse, and/or c) signal an unwillingness to pursue an education at Rockdale Recovery High School. These behaviors can include lying, excessive tardiness, sleeping at school, excessive absences, not completing schoolwork, and disrespect toward school staff, peers, and school policies. These, "relapse behaviors" can be used as grounds for enactment of the relapse policy. Certain checks, including random drug screens, have been established to monitor student sobriety and will be used in conjunction with staff observance of relapse behaviors to hopefully lay the groundwork for long-term recovery. A student's family will be responsible for the cost of any requested or random test not covered by his/her insurance.

In **all cases** of suspected or confirmed relapse:

- The student's parent or guardian will be notified immediately and is required to attend a meeting with their child and school staff within one school day to determine how to best support the student's recovery going forward
- Recovery is considered the first priority for all RRHS students. Post relapse action plans will vary based on circumstances but all relapsed students will be absent from the school community for the appropriate treatment (ie. 15 days/30 days/90 days)
- Any student who is removed from the RRHS community due to relapse will be subject to a relapse/re-entry contract upon their return to school as well as a revised recovery plan that may include an increase in the frequency of drug testing, verification of meeting attendance, and/or changes to outside therapy/counseling routines
- Any student who is removed from the RRHS community due to relapse who is in good academic standing will be counted as medically excused and may be provided coursework during treatment.

Self-reported relapse:

- Honesty is highly valued at Rockdale Recovery High School, and while we do recognize relapse as a need for a more intensive or varied recovery approach, we are also able to support students who self-report relapse to return to the RRHS community sooner unless it is determined that to do so would jeopardize the safety of the student or the recovery community.

Please talk with MaryEllen or Alyssa if you have questions.

Thank you!