

Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Annual Drug-Free Schools & Communities Act Disclosure

1. Standards of Conduct TSTC is a drug-free and alcohol-free college and workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, purchase, dispensation, possession, or use of an illegal drug or alcohol by students and employees on college property, or as a part of any college-sponsored activity, is strictly prohibited.

2. Legal Sanctions (Local, State, and Federal) Violations of drug and alcohol laws can result in significant legal penalties including fines, community service, and imprisonment.

- **State of Texas:** Sanctions are governed by the Texas Controlled Substances Act and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code. Penalties vary by the type and amount of substance but can range from Class C misdemeanors to first-degree felonies.
- **Federal Law:** Federal trafficking penalties for controlled substances (including marijuana, cocaine, and opioids) can include mandatory minimum prison sentences of 5–10 years and fines reaching millions of dollars for repeat offenses.

3. Health Risks of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Substance abuse is dangerous and can lead to physical and psychological dependence.

- **Alcohol:** Excessive use can lead to liver disease, heart disease, increased risk of cancer, and fatal alcohol poisoning.
- **Illicit Drugs:** Use can result in respiratory failure, heart attack, seizures, brain damage, and death. Using "street drugs" carries the additional risk of unknown ingredients like fentanyl, which can be fatal in even small doses.

4. Available Counseling and Treatment Programs TSTC provides free mental health and referral services to support students and employees.

- **Students:** Can receive initial assessment, short-term stabilization, and facilitated referrals to local mental health authorities (such as Community Healthcore or the Betty Hardwick Center).
- **Employees:** Support and referral services are available through the Human and Organization Development (HOD) Office.

5. Institutional Disciplinary Sanctions TSTC will impose sanctions on any student or employee who violates the standards of conduct.

- **Students:** Sanctions range from mandatory drug education and probation to suspension or permanent **expulsion** from the college.
- **Employees:** Violations will result in disciplinary action **up to and including termination** of employment.

- **Prosecution:** In all cases, TSTC may refer violations to local law enforcement for criminal prosecution.