



Policy Title Notification for Alcohol and Controlled Substance Violations (Beau’s Law)

Policy Number	4011
Category	Student
Applicability	College-wide
Responsible Office	Student Affairs
Effective Date	July 1, 2026

I. Policy Statement

In accordance with New York State Education Law § 6438-d (Beau’s Law), Suffolk County Community College is committed to promoting student health, safety, and well-being. The College may notify a parent, guardian, or emergency contact when a student is involved in certain alcohol- or controlled substance-related violations or incidents, as detailed within this Policy. Notification decisions are made by authorized institutional offices and are guided by health, safety, and legal considerations.

II. Rationale

In accordance with the U.S. Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and New York State Education Law § 6438-d (Beau’s law), Suffolk County Community College maintains the following Policy regarding when a parent, guardian, or designated emergency contact may be notified if a student is involved in certain alcohol- or controlled substance-related incidents. The purpose of this Policy is to promote safety, ensure transparency, and clarify how Suffolk County Community College exercises its discretion to disclose student information under FERPA and New York State law with respect to these incidents.

III. Scope and Applicability

This Policy applies to all Suffolk County Community College students involved in alcohol- or controlled substance-related incidents.

IV. Responsible Office/Executive

The Vice President for Student Affairs has responsibility for implementation of this Policy. Individuals with questions about this Policy should contact the Vice President for Student Affairs for more information.

V. Definitions

An **alcohol- or controlled substance-related incident** includes but is not limited to rule infractions, violations of federal, state, or local law, or controlled substance or alcohol-related

hospitalizations or overdoses. Students should refer to the College's [Student Code of Conduct](#) for rules regarding alcohol and controlled substances.

An **emergency contact** is the person(s) designated by the student in the College's student information system as a contact to be notified in urgent or emergency circumstances and may or may not be the student's parent/guardian.

A **parent** under FERPA means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian.

VI. Policy Elaboration

When concerns arise regarding a student's alcohol or other controlled substance use and potential threat to the health or safety, emergency contacts may be notified. Notifications are made with sensitivity, and information shared is limited to what is necessary for health, safety, or welfare. All disclosures are documented.

Notifications are made on a case-by-case basis, considering the totality of the circumstances. Consideration may be given to the severity and nature of the alcohol- or controlled substance-related incident, whether it involves repeated violations or escalating behavior, and whether there are observed impairment, substance misuse, or dependency concerns.

Notification **may** occur in accordance with FERPA when a student under 21 is involved in:

- Violations of College policies regarding alcohol or controlled substances
- Violations of federal, state, or local alcohol or controlled substance laws

Notification **may** also occur when a student is involved in:

- Alcohol- or drug-related medical emergencies, including:
 - Hospitalization
 - Overdose
 - Other situations posing a serious risk to health or safety

Notification Authority:

Only designated offices, including the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Campus Associate Deans of Student Affairs, may make notification decisions in consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs. Individual faculty or staff may not contact parents or guardians unless explicitly authorized.

Student Notification:

When appropriate and feasible, students will be informed that their parent, guardian, or emergency contact has been or may be notified, unless doing so would compromise safety or an ongoing investigation.

VII. Cross-References

- [Policy 4001: Student Records Policy](#)
- [Policy 4003: Student Code of Conduct](#)

- [Notice of Student Privacy Rights](#)
- [Policy Statement on Privacy and Confidentiality](#)

VIII. References

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation, 14th ed., [Standard II](#), [Standard IV](#)
- NYS Education Law § 6438-d (Beau's Law)
- [U.S. Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)

IX. History / Revision Dates

Adopted: June 22, 2026 (President's Cabinet)