

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) — 2026 Annual Notice

Paris Junior College (PJC) supports the requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA). In accordance with the DFSCA, PJC informs each student and employee annually, through the *Choose Well Program* and the college's website, Vector student and employee training, in the PJC Student Handbook, Residential Housing guidelines, and via email, about the following information related to the use of alcohol and illegal drugs and the abuse of any drug, whether legal or illegal:

1. **Standards of conduct** that clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs;
2. **PJC's sanctions** for violating the alcohol and drug provisions, as defined in the [PJC Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Employee Standards of Conduct \(related policies DH \(Legal\) and DH \(Local\)\)](#);
3. **Legal sanctions** under local, state, and federal law;
4. **Health risks** associated with alcohol and substance use and abuse; and
5. **Counseling, treatment, and prevention programs** available to PJC students and employees.

Standards of Conduct

All PJC students, employees, contractors, and members of the public using PJC facilities are expected to comply with PJC's policies on alcohol and controlled substances. Any person who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance may be denied access to, or removed from, PJC property or facilities. These standards apply to on-campus conduct and to off-campus conduct connected to any PJC-sponsored activity, including student organization events and employee-attended professional functions sponsored by the college.

Students are expected to comply with the [PJC Student Code of Conduct](#), Board policies, and applicable law. PJC may pursue student disciplinary action for a violation regardless of the student's status with any municipal, county, state, or federal authority for the same act. The Student Code of Conduct is located in the current [Student Handbook](#) or online [PJC Student Code of Conduct](#).

Employees are expected to comply with [Employee Standards of Conduct \(related policies DH \(Legal\) and DH \(Local\)\)](#) and any other policy, regulation, or guideline attendant to their status as PJC employees. A violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

PJC's Policies on Alcohol and Controlled Substances

For the complete, current text of PJC's Board policies on alcohol and drug use, see:

- [FLBE — Student Conduct: Alcohol & Drug Use \(Legal\)](#)
- [FLBE — Student Conduct: Alcohol & Drug Use \(Local\)](#)
- [FLBE — Student Conduct: Alcohol & Drug Use \(Exhibit\)](#)

Alcohol

The possession, consumption, sale, manufacture, distribution, and furnishing of alcohol on PJC property is governed by PJC policy and Texas law, enforced by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC).

It is unlawful to sell, furnish, distribute, or provide alcohol to a person under 21, and it is unlawful for a person under 21 to possess or consume alcohol in a public place. State underage-drinking laws are strictly enforced on all property owned or controlled by PJC.

Consuming, distributing, selling, or possessing alcohol anywhere on a PJC campus without prior approval from PJC's President's Office on the Paris campus, Administration Building, is a policy violation. Alcohol is otherwise prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, offices, athletic facilities, and other public campus areas, except where the President has authorized service at a specifically approved event or academic program.

Controlled Substances

All PJC campuses and property are drug-free. The possession, consumption, sale, manufacture, or distribution of any controlled substance is illegal under Texas and federal law. While on PJC property or attending a PJC-sponsored activity, an individual may not possess, manufacture, distribute, sell, use, or be under the influence of alcohol; any controlled substance under the Texas Controlled Substances Act; abusable volatile chemicals; dangerous drugs; steroids; designer drugs; or any other intoxicant or mind-altering substance — including the improper or illegal use of over-the-counter or prescription medications.

Hemp-Derived and Delta-8/THC Products

Texas law governing hemp-derived THC products changed substantially in 2025–2026. As of July 31, 2026, manufactured Delta-8 THC and most other hemp-derived intoxicating THC products (including Delta-8, Delta-10, and THC-P) are treated as Schedule I controlled substances in Texas, and retail sale of THC vape products has been illegal since September 2025. Hemp products that stay within the legal delta-9 THC threshold and are sold only to adults 21 and older remain lawful under state law, but are still prohibited on PJC property under PJC's drug-free campus policy, the same as alcohol and other controlled substances. Because this area of law is actively changing, this section should be reviewed and updated at least annually.

Source: Texas Health & Safety Code Ch. 443; Senate Bill 2024 (89th Leg., 2025); Texas Department of State Health Services guidance, current as of August 2026.

Drug Paraphernalia

The use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of paraphernalia related to a prohibited substance is prohibited under [FLBE — Student Conduct: Alcohol & Drug Use \(Local\)](#) and Texas Health and Safety Code § 481.002(17).

Anabolic Steroids

Texas Education Code § 51.921 provides that anabolic steroids and growth hormones are for medical use only, and that possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering them outside of a valid medical purpose is a criminal offense punishable by confinement in jail or imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Body building, muscle enhancement, or increased muscle bulk or strength is not a valid medical purpose.

Definition of Possession; Exceptions

Possession means actual care, custody, control, or management of an item, and includes knowingly having control over an item long enough to be able to end that control — including items in a vehicle under an individual's care, custody, control, or management. It is not a policy violation for an individual

to use or possess a substance validly prescribed to that individual (or to a child or ward for whom the individual is a legal guardian), or to cultivate, possess, transport, or sell hemp as authorized by law.

Drug Testing

Students in certain academic, clinical, or extracurricular programs may be required to complete drug testing, including on a random basis; program-specific requirements are available before enrollment or participation.

Related Policies:

- [DHA — Employee Standards of Conduct: Searches and Alcohol/Drug Testing \(Legal\)](#)
- [DHA — Employee Standards of Conduct: Searches and Alcohol/Drug Testing \(Local\)](#)

Tobacco, Vaping, and Electronic Smoking Devices

- [FLBD — Student Conduct: Tobacco Use](#) (Legal)

PJC Sanctions for Alcohol and Controlled Substances Violations

Individuals and organizations who violate PJC's alcohol and drug policies, or engage in conduct prohibited by local, state, or federal law, are subject to college disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, fines, and/or imprisonment. PJC may refer evidence of illegal activity to appropriate governmental authorities for investigation and prosecution.

Students

A student found responsible for a violation is subject to disciplinary action under the [PJC's Student Code of Conduct](#), which may include:

- Referral to drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, or student assistance programs
- Reprimand
- Educational project or intervention
- Conditional probation
- Suspension
- Recommendation for expulsion
- Referral to law enforcement for prosecution

Employees

An employee found responsible for a violation is subject to disciplinary action under [Policy DH — Employee Standards of Conduct \(Local\)](#) which may include:

- Referral to drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, or assistance programs
- Coaching and counseling
- Written disciplinary action
- Unpaid administrative leave
- Recommendation for termination
- Referral to law enforcement for prosecution

Community Members and Organizations

Community members or organizations using PJC facilities who violate these policies may lose facility-use privileges, have nonconforming materials confiscated, and — where the conduct also violates [Board Policy GDA — Community Expression and Use of College Facilities: Conduct on College District Premises \(Local\)](#) — face criminal trespass charges or other lawful measures.

Legal Sanctions for Alcohol and Controlled Substances Violations

The tables below summarize some of the most common state and federal penalties. This is a non-exhaustive summary; consult current statute or legal counsel for a complete and authoritative statement of the law.

Texas — Providing Alcohol to a Minor

Violation	Penalty
Making alcohol available to a minor	Class A misdemeanor — fine up to \$4,000, up to one year in jail, or both.
Sale of alcohol to a minor	Class A misdemeanor — fine up to \$4,000, up to one year in jail, or both.
Adult (21+, not a parent/guardian) who knowingly provides alcohol to a minor under 18, or knowingly allows it to be served on property they own or lease	Civil liability for resulting damages, plus automatic 180-day driver's license suspension upon conviction.

Source: *Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code*; *Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission*, tabc.texas.gov (current as of August 2026).

Texas — Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)

The legal limit for intoxication in Texas is a 0.08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC), but a driver can be cited for impaired driving regardless of BAC. Texas has a zero-tolerance law: it is illegal for anyone under 21 to drive with any detectable amount of alcohol in their system. Refusing a breath or blood test can result in an automatic 180-day license suspension.

Offense	Jail / Prison	Fine	License
First offense	72 hours – 180 days (Class B misdemeanor)	Up to \$2,000, plus a \$3,000 state surcharge (\$6,000 if BAC ≥ 0.15)	Suspension up to 1 year
Second offense	30 days – 1 year (Class A misdemeanor)	Up to \$4,000, plus a \$4,500 state surcharge	Suspension up to 2 years
Third offense	2 – 10 years state prison (3rd-degree felony)	Up to \$10,000, plus a \$6,000 state surcharge	Suspension up to 2 years

Source: *Texas Penal Code* §§ 49.04, 49.09; *Texas Transportation Code* § 709.001; *Texas Department of Transportation*, txdot.gov (current as of August 2026).

Texas — Underage Drinking & Zero Tolerance

Violation	Penalties
Underage possession, purchase, or consumption of alcohol; public intoxication; misrepresenting age to obtain alcohol	Class C misdemeanor — fine up to \$500; mandatory alcohol-awareness class; 8–40 hours community service; 30–180 day license suspension or denial. A minor 17+ on a third offense faces a fine of \$250–\$2,000, up to 180 days in jail, or both, plus automatic license suspension.
Zero Tolerance — driving with any detectable alcohol under age 21	First offense: Class C misdemeanor, fine up to \$500, alcohol-awareness class, 20–40 hours community service, 60-day license suspension. Second offense: up to \$500 fine, 40–60 hours community service, 120-day suspension. Third offense: no deferred adjudication; 180-day suspension; if 17+, fine \$500–\$2,000 and up to 180 days in jail.

Source: Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code §§ 106.02–106.071; Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, tabc.texas.gov (current as of August 2026).

Texas — Controlled Substance Penalty Groups

Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 481 sorts controlled substances into penalty groups (1, 1-A, 1-B, 2, 2-A, 3, and 4) plus a separate marijuana offense; penalties scale with the group and the weight involved.

Penalty Group / Examples	Lower-End Penalty	Upper-End Penalty
Group 1 — heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, fentanyl, and most opioids/opiates	State jail felony (180 days–2 yrs.) and up to \$10,000 fine for under 1 gram	Life imprisonment and fines up to \$300,000 for 400+ grams
Group 2 — LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy), PCP, psilocybin, amphetamines	180 days–2 yrs. for under 1 gram	Life imprisonment and fines up to \$50,000 for 400+ grams
Group 3 & 4 — benzodiazepines, anabolic steroids, methylphenidate, and other regulated prescription drugs	180 days–2 yrs. and up to \$10,000 fine	Life imprisonment and fines up to \$50,000 for 400+ grams
Marijuana	Up to 180 days in jail, fine up to \$2,000, and 6-month license suspension for 2 oz. or less; probation and mandatory treatment options may apply	1–10 years and fines of \$4,000–\$50,000 for more than 4 oz.

Source: Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 481 (Texas Controlled Substances Act); current as of August 2026. Fentanyl-containing substances carry additional mandatory-minimum enhancements under Texas Penal Code § 12.42 and related 2023 amendments.

Federal Drug Penalties

Violation	First Offense	Enhanced Penalty
Simple possession (21 U.S.C. § 844)	Fine of at least \$1,000 and/or up to 1 year imprisonment	Repeat offenses: fine of at least \$5,000 plus costs, and 3–20 years imprisonment

Violation	First Offense	Enhanced Penalty
Distribution to a person under 21 (21 U.S.C. § 859)	Double the standard federal distribution penalty	Second offense: triple the standard federal distribution penalty

Federal trafficking penalties are severe and scale steeply with drug type and quantity — for example, 5-year and 10-year mandatory-minimum thresholds apply to specific weights of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and fentanyl under 21 U.S.C. § 841, and can reach life imprisonment and multi-million-dollar fines for large quantities or repeat offenses.

Source: 21 U.S.C. §§ 841, 844, 859; U.S. Sentencing Commission, “Drug Trafficking Offenses” primer (2024, ussc.gov); U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, dea.gov/drug-information/drug-policy (current as of August 2026).

Health Risks of Alcohol and Controlled Substance Use

For detailed, substance-specific information, see the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) drug charts at nida.nih.gov/research-topics/commonly-used-drugs-charts.

Substance	Short-Term Effects	Long-Term Effects
Alcohol	Slurred speech, impaired judgment/coordination, vomiting, breathing difficulty, blackouts, unconsciousness	Dependence, liver/heart/pancreas damage, neurological damage, fetal alcohol syndrome, increased cancer risk, fatal overdose
Marijuana, THC & synthetic cannabinoids (K2/Spice)	Impaired coordination and short-term memory, distorted perception, anxiety, rapid heart rate	Impaired memory and concentration, respiratory issues, dependence; synthetic forms carry higher, less predictable overdose risk
Cocaine / crack	Elevated heart rate and blood pressure, anxiety, paranoia, hyper-stimulation	Heart attack, stroke, seizure, psychosis, dependence, sudden death from cardiac or respiratory failure
Methamphetamine / amphetamines	Increased heart rate and blood pressure, insomnia, decreased appetite, agitation	Severe dental and skin problems, psychosis, cardiovascular damage, dependence
Heroin & prescription opioids/painkillers	Euphoria, drowsiness, slowed breathing, constipation	Physical dependence, collapsed veins, respiratory depression, fatal overdose
Benzodiazepines / sedatives (incl. Rohypnol)	Drowsiness, impaired coordination, slurred speech	Strong physical dependence, severe withdrawal, overdose risk (especially combined with alcohol or opioids)
MDMA / club drugs	Elevated heart rate and body temperature, dehydration, jaw clenching	Memory problems, depression, cardiovascular and liver damage

Substance	Short-Term Effects	Long-Term Effects
LSD, psilocybin & other hallucinogens	Altered perception, mood swings, nausea, impaired judgment	Flashbacks, prolonged psychosis in vulnerable individuals, impaired psychological functioning
PCP / ketamine	Numbness, disordered thinking, elevated blood pressure	Memory loss, speech difficulty, depression, psychological dependence
Anabolic steroids	Acne, mood swings/aggression, elevated blood pressure	Cardiovascular disease, liver damage, infertility, masculinization/feminization effects
Inhalants	Dizziness, slurred speech, loss of coordination	Permanent brain, heart, and nervous-system damage; sudden death from a single use is possible
Tobacco / nicotine (incl. vaping)	Increased heart rate and blood pressure	Addiction, cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory disease

In the event of a suspected overdose on campus, call 911 immediately and notify PJC Campus Police at (903) 782-0399.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), nida.nih.gov/research-topics/commonly-used-drugs-charts; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), samhsa.gov (current as of August 2026).

HIV, AIDS, and Injection Drug Use

HIV damages the immune system and can be transmitted through shared needles, syringes, or other equipment used to inject drugs, as well as through other routes of exposure. Students and employees with questions about HIV/AIDS testing, prevention, or PJC's related policy may contact PJC's Counseling Center at counseling@parisjc.edu or by phone at (903) 782-0426 or the Texas Health and Human Services HIV/STD program at dshs.texas.gov.

Counseling, Treatment, and Prevention Resources

PJC students and employees can access the following resources for information, counseling, or treatment related to alcohol or drug use:

- **Counseling Services / Student Wellness** — Counseling@parisjc.edu, (903) 782-0426, located on the Paris campus in the Administration building; licensed counselors can make an appointment at any of our locations (Paris, Greenville, or Sulphur Springs)
- **Human Resources** — PJC's HR Office is located on the Paris campus in the Administration Building, Room 156; call (903) 782-0483 or email humanresources@parisjc.edu.
- **Addiction & Recovery Resources**
- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** — call or text 988
- **SAMHSA National Helpline** — 1-800-662-4357 (free, confidential, 24/7)

Distribution and Availability

This notice is distributed in writing to every PJC student and employee at least annually, as required by the DFSCA. A current copy is also posted on PJC's DFSCA compliance webpage and is available to the public and the U.S. Department of Education upon request, along with PJC's most recent Biennial Review.

Revised: 08.20.2026 | Approved by: Lisa Elliott, *Vice President of Student Services*