



It is a violation of the Board of Educational Examiners (“BoEE”) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics to be on school grounds or at a school event while possessing, using, or under the influence of alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs. However, Iowa Code does not currently require any person or entity to file an ethics complaint with the BoEE against an educator who violates this standard. The BoEE has seen an increase in the number of licensees under the influence of alcohol or possessing alcohol on school grounds or at school events in recent years. The board believes that this type of unethical behavior by educators is unacceptable and should be reported under 272.15 as a mandatory ethics complaint.

Iowa Code section 272.15 sets forth behaviors that must be reported to the BoEE in the event of any instance of disciplinary action at the local level. Drug and alcohol-related incidents are currently discretionary reports for school districts and nonpublic schools, which results in some educators receiving no licensure sanction for these incidents and others receiving fairly significant sanctions, up to and including multi-year license suspensions and substance abuse treatment in order to be reinstated into the profession. The BoEE takes these reports seriously and believes all educators who are disciplined at the local level for this type of behavior should be potentially subject to licensure sanctions. The BoEE reviews each report individually after an investigation, and imposes individually tailored sanctions where appropriate. All respondents have the right to legal representation, a hearing, and appeals processes at both the board and district court level.