**DRUG FREE SCHOOL STATEMENT**

In recognition of the problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse in society today, **Cameron County Education Initiative Inc.( CCEI Inc.)**  is providing all students and employees with the following information:

1. The unlawful possession, use of distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school property or in connection with any school activity is strictly prohibited. This prohibition applies to all students and employees.

1. The following legal sanctions are applicable for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol:

**LOCAL:** Penalties vary based on the severity of the offense and the number of offenses. Sanctions for possession of an illegal substance for the first time could range from fines of $40,000 and up but not limited to 40 years imprisonment.

**STATE**: Penalties vary based on the nature of the illegal substance, the offense and whether there is a repeat offense. First offenders may receive up to nine years with repeat offenders could receive life imprisonment. A schedule of fines up to but not limited to $50,000 also is in place.

**FEDERAL**: Penalties for unlawful manufacturing, distribute and dispensing of controlled substances are provided under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. The penalties are determined by the nature of the drug or other substance, the amount of drugs or other substance involved, and the number of offenses.

**EXAMPLES OF FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING PENALTIES:**

**First Offense Second Offense**

Marijuana (1,000 kg or more) Not less than 10 years Not less than 20 years

Heroin (100-999 grams) Not less than 5 years Not less than 10 years

1. There are various health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol. Some of the more common problems are cited below:

**Marijuana** – Use can lead to an increase in heart rate up to 50%, a sense of euphoria, acute anxiety and tremendous mood swings. There is a potential for long term physical and psychological damage.

**Cocaine** – Use can affect the brain in seconds and result in heart or respiratory failure.

**Crack** – Use can lead to an intense high within seconds, deep depression and intense dependency in a short time.

**Amphetamines** – Use increase heart and breathing rates, raises blood pressure while often causing blurred vision, dizziness, lack of sleep and anxiety. Body chemistry is upset and can lead to long term physical problems.

**Alcohol –** Use can lead to a feeling confidence and control. Liver, brain, heart and stomach destruction goes on even without apparent symptoms. Use for a period of time often causes dependency and may be fatal.

1. There is help available to our employees and students. ***CCEI Inc.,*** offers a confidential referral program for employees and students. Further information is available in the school administrative office.

1. Any employee or student who is a drug or alcohol offender will have disciplinary action imposed by the school.

These sanctions may include any or all of the following:

* + Mandated treatment for problem.
  + Mandated attendance at local treatment center.
  + Mandated completion of a drug rehabilitation program.
  + Mandated probation period not to exceed one month.
  + Expulsion from school or discharge from employment.

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As a student/employee of **CCEI Inc.,** I certify that I have read and understand the foregoing information. I have also received a copy of the DRUG FREE SCHOOL STATEMENT.

Student/Employee Signature Date