
DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Background

The District believes students are to be assisted to realize their individual potential. It recognizes that the consumption of alcohol and drugs can impair individual student's well-being and can interfere with their ability to learn and to function in society. In addition, the District acknowledges that the sale, offer for sale, transfer, possession or use of alcohol or drugs by any student under its jurisdiction, either on its property, traveling to and from school or at its events, interferes with the overall safety and well-being of other students and staff. Finally, the District recognizes that such students require intervention and support.

Accordingly, the District has adopted this Administrative Procedure to foster healthy lifestyles and to address current and potential student alcohol and drug use and the attendant problems. It shall endeavour to provide sufficient resources to support this Administrative Procedure.

The District recognizes that to be effective, this Administrative Procedure cannot stand alone, but must be coordinated with the related policies of other agencies. It will, therefore, cooperate and collaborate with students, staff, parents, and community agencies to the fullest extent possible to ensure the implementation and evaluation of this Administrative Procedure and to support community-wide initiatives to address drug and alcohol problems among children and youth.

This Administrative Procedure is based on student rights and responsibilities that include:

- a right to a public school education that fosters healthy living free from substance abuse;
- a right to a drug and alcohol-free environment at all school and District functions;
- a right to freedom from individuals impaired by drugs or alcohol; and,
- the responsibility to abstain from these substances while under the charge of the school.

It is intended to balance discipline and deterrence with education and services. It is to send a clear message as follows: while under the charge of the school, students who:

- use, or are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or,
- distribute, sell, or offer to sell drugs or alcohol, or,
- possess drugs or alcohol,

will be subject to firm and expeditious disciplinary action.

But the Administrative Procedure is not just disciplinary. First and foremost, it is intended to prevent substance, drug and alcohol abuse and encourage intervention at the earliest stage. It must therefore also send a message to parents and the community that:

- The District is committed to a home-school-community partnership support program that includes prevention, intervention, community treatment, referral, and aftercare support;
- school-based helping services are part of that support program.

Finally, while every attempt will be made to treat drug or alcohol abusing students in a consistent and systematic manner, it must be understood that each student is unique and that there will be individual factors and circumstances to consider in implementing this Administrative Procedure.

Procedures

1. Each Principal shall make helping services for drug and alcohol prevention accessible to students. These services shall include, but not be restricted to:
 - 1.1. Screening students for drug or alcohol problems.
 - 1.2. Implementing drug and alcohol prevention activities.
 - 1.3. Participation in case conferences for students with needs.
 - 1.4. Providing school counselling services, providing written referrals and background information to community agencies (with parent and/or student knowledge and consent).
 - 1.5. Serving as case managers or team participants for students referred for community-based treatment services, as appropriate.
 - 1.6. Informing parents and students about the drug procedures and consequences each year.
2. Personnel employed by the District and other persons authorized to supervise students shall notify a Principal whenever they have suspicions that a student is:
 - 2.1. Using, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - 2.2. Distributing, selling or offering to sell drugs or alcohol.
 - 2.3. In possession of drugs or alcohol.
 - 2.4. This applies to students while they are:
 - 2.4.1. Attending school.
 - 2.4.2. In transit to and from school.
 - 2.4.3. Attending a school function, regardless of location.
3. Principals, with other staff as required, shall interview students reported to them and if they have a reasonable suspicion that a student has been using, distributing, selling, offering to sell, or in possession of drugs or alcohol, as outlined previously, then they may require the student submit to a drug or alcohol test (alcohol test using a handheld breathalyzer, drug test using a saliva sample). Refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol test will be considered an admission of guilt. Parents will be informed both verbally and in writing of the incident with a copy to the Superintendent.

4. Principals shall consider the nature of any drug and alcohol-related offence, determine at which step the District Drug and Alcohol Discipline Procedure the student is at, and act according to that procedure.
5. Drug and Alcohol Offences
 - 5.1. Students K–7 will receive consequences on an individual basis. The consequences will be therapeutic in nature with minimal loss of instructional time.
 - 5.2. Secondary students will be given one chance to rehabilitate their drug use. Drug infractions carry over each year Grades 8–12.
 - 5.3. First Offence (Secondary):
 - 5.3.1. Principal will automatically impose an in or out of school suspension of up to ten (10) days. A meeting will be arranged between the Parent(s), student, and the Principal to determine the course of action prior to the student’s return. The meeting will be held within ten (10) days of the infraction. The first-time offender, at the Principal’s discretion, may receive a one-month suspension with Board approval. The Board or Principal may require the student attend drug and alcohol counselling, complete assignments related to the offence and complete all school assignments. While on suspension the student may be required to attend a full day alternate program. If the suspended student violates any of the provisions of the suspension, a hearing of the Board will be held to determine further consequences. The student’s parent(s) will also be made aware that any further offence will result in automatic removal from a regular program. The student will not be re-admitted to school until all appointments are met and assignments are complete.
 - 5.3.2. If the Parent(s) wish to appeal the decision of the Principal, the Board will meet with the Parent(s) and student within ten (10) days of the original suspension.
 - 5.4. Second Offence (Secondary):
 - 5.4.1. The Principal will automatically impose an indefinite suspension until a meeting is arranged with the Board. Parent(s) and student must meet with the Board to determine the consequences of any offence. At the discretion of the Board a second time offender will undergo extensive drug and alcohol counselling. At the discretion of the Board the student will be referred to an alternate path for their education. At the discretion of the Board the student will remain with the alternate path for up to one calendar year. A student may only return to a regular program when they have a letter of recommendation from professional staff with the opinion that they are confident the student will not be using drugs/alcohol at school and is serious about their studies. To be re-admitted to a regular program, the student must meet with the Board for approval.
 - 5.5. Third Offence:
 - 5.5.1. Upon a student’s third drug infraction between Grades 8–12, the student will automatically be recommended for permanent expulsion.

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- 5.5.2. The student and their parent(s) will be required to meet with the Board to determine the terms of expulsion (an educational program will be provided if the student is under the age of 16) or other courses of action required to allow the student to return.

Reference: Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 26, 65, 79, 85 *School Act*

Adopted: November 8, 1994

Reviewed: February 12, 2020

Revised: May 18, 2022