

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE BY STUDENTS

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In the interest of the health, safety, social and emotional well-being of all students, the board has adopted the following policy to address student alcohol and other drug use during school or at school related activities, functions and on school property.

The policy will have three principle components:

**Education**: curriculum and/or programming designed to present age-appropriate accurate information to students to help them make positive and healthy lifestyle choices and prevent alcohol and drug use.

**Proactive Intervention**: programming designed to identify and intervene with students with alcohol and/or drug related behaviour.

**Reactive Intervention**: a set of progressive disciplinary/responsive actions and supports that address alcohol or other drug infractions.

### (1) **Education**

The goal of the education component is to provide a learning process that encourages students to demonstrate knowledge, attitudes and skills which promote positive lifestyle behaviour and well-being concerning alcohol and drug use. The purpose of curriculum and programming is to reduce the incidence of alcohol and drug use through comprehensive education. Within the curriculum, specific objectives are identified for each grade level which are consistent with the students' chronological age and developmental stage.

#### **Strategies**

The provincial department of education's physical education/health education curriculum includes compulsory drug and alcohol prevention, which helps students understand:

- (a) healthy and positive lifestyle choices;
- (b) the effect of alcohol and other drugs on the body;
- (c) the factors that influence people to use or not to use drugs;
- (d) the decision adolescents face to use or not to use drugs;
- (e) the alternatives to drug use;
- (f) the skills needed to resist peer pressure.

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE BY STUDENTS

---

The division will continue to implement the physical education/health education curriculum and will provide programming and/or school initiatives for all students which will assist in the promotion of healthy choices and discourage alcohol and drug use.

The division will provide supports to assist students in decision making and skill development.

### (2) **Proactive Intervention**

The goal of early intervention is to reduce the use of alcohol and drugs through education, assessment, counselling and supports. Identification of concerns/needs may occur by:

- (a) student self-referral;
- (b) parent/legal guardian, or staff referral;
- (c) compulsory referral as a reaction for alcohol or drug use at school, on school property or at a school sponsored event or activity;

Assessment and counselling will be provided by appropriate divisional or community agencies to students who require assistance.

### (3) **Reactive Consequences**

The goal of progressive disciplinary/responsive action and supports is to intervene appropriately with those students whose behaviour and actions are harmful to themselves and to protect the health and safety of all students.

This policy refers to the following substances:

- (a) alcohol;
- (b) cannabis;
- (c) restricted drugs (misused prescription or over the counter drugs, including steroids);
- (d) illegal drugs (including steroids);
- (e) pills or other substances which are misrepresented and sold or distributed as restricted or illegal drugs;
- (f) products misused for the purpose of mind altering affect (aerosols, solvents).  
(collectively referred to as “prohibited substances”)

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE BY STUDENTS

---

The following actions involving prohibited substances will be actively investigated and addressed through progressive discipline/responsive actions and supports

- (a) attempting to secure or purchase;
- (b) using or having used;
- (c) possessing;
- (d) intending or attempting to sell or distribute;
- (e) selling or distributing;
- (f) being knowingly present when used, possessed or consumed during the school day;
- (g) possession of paraphernalia.

The exception to this policy is the purchase and/or consumption of alcohol by students of legal age at the graduation dinner and dance if the sale of alcohol is part of the safe graduation arrangements.

Drug paraphernalia is any equipment used to produce, conceal/contain and/or consume drugs or alcoholic beverages. This includes, but is not limited to pipes, bongs, roach clips, rolling papers, baggies, grinders, dabpens, cartridges, anything modified or designed to represent drugs/alcohol and bottles or cans from alcoholic beverages.

(a) Personal Use

The principal or designate:

- (i) will utilize progressive discipline/responsive support and actions that may include suspension up to five days;
- (ii) will notify parent/legal guardian and schedule a mandatory meeting to discuss actions taken and next steps and to review the policy;
- (iii) will submit a discipline referral;
- (iv) will require the student to complete Addictions Foundation of Manitoba assessment and counselling; and
- (v) may refer to police for legal action.

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE BY STUDENTS

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(b) Additional Violations

Students with three (3) discipline referrals with prohibited substances will be suspended from regular classes pending a meeting with the Screening Committee and may be referred to the Specialized Learning Environment (SLE) or alternative programming. Students who choose not to attend the Specialized Learning Environment or alternative programming will be suspended pending a board of trustees decision.

(c) Trafficking

Students who sell any amount of prohibited substances to a student at school, or on any school or division property, or at any school activity or function will be actively investigated and considered to be dealing or trafficking in prohibited substances. In the event of trafficking/dealing in prohibited substances or being in possession of five grams/units/packages or more of illegal or restricted drugs (packages are defined but not limited to proportioned marijuana in bags, dab pen canisters, or pre-packaged/single serving edibles) the principal or designate:

- (i) will notify parent/legal guardian that the student has been suspended for five days;
- (ii) will inform parent/legal guardian that the superintendent or designate will determine extension to the suspension;
- (iii) will refer the case to the police for legal action;
- (iv) will submit a discipline referral.

The superintendent:

- (i) will review the case with the divisional screening committee and/or make a recommendation to the board for suspension/expulsion;
- (ii) will inform the parent/legal guardian of the decision of the screening committee or the board;
- (iii) will inform the parent/legal guardian of the appeal process in the suspension letter;
- (iv) will inform the parent/legal guardian of the results of the appeal and if the student is reinstated the condition(s) of the reinstatement.

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE BY STUDENTS

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### (4) **Communication**

As awareness of the policy is key to acceptance by the stakeholders, it is essential that staff, students, parents and the community be informed of the policy. This information will be delivered through staff meetings, school assemblies, student handbooks, and/or school websites. Schools are encouraged to discuss the policy with students throughout the year.

### (5) **Staff Training**

Staff training is a critical part of implementation. Training will include information to assist staff with the following:

- (a) recognition of the signs of students under the influence;
- (b) recognition of students affected by their own or others involvement with prohibited substances;
- (c) signs of students involved in trafficking;
- (d) recognition of direct student involvement with prohibited substances;
- (e) steps involved in the intervention process outlined by the policy;
- (f) development of intervention skills and strategies;
- (g) reporting procedures.

Staff training and/or information for parent/legal guardian may come through in-servicing, awareness sessions, and delivery of the health curriculum and/or community forums.

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Legal/Cross Reference: