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## STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

### Background

The District prohibits the use of alcohol or drugs by students while on school property or at school-sponsored events. This is inclusive of e-Cigarettes, vaping and medicinal marijuana etc.. The District supports a proactive and comprehensive approach to substance abuse, which emphasizes these four areas of activity:

- Youth Prevention and Engagement
- Parent Engagement
- Curriculum Development and Implementation
- Restitution / Disciplinary Actions

### Procedures

1. The District has five objectives for this Administrative Procedure:
  - 1.1. To promote healthy lifestyles which includes problem solving, drug education, and prevention through the Physical and Health Education and Career Education curriculums approved by the Ministry of Education.
  - 1.2. Align training and practices for the Prevention and Health Promotion Program Professional, counsellors and Child Care Youth workers at high schools and alternate schools to provide support for classroom teachers and students. An emphasis is on making connections with youth through open dialogue and strong trusting relationships.
  - 1.3. To establish and maintain an early intervention program providing accessible assessment, counselling, and referral services to community or provincial programs.
  - 1.4. To provide targeted and individual interventions that may involve an inter-agency care team approach to ensure students and their parents are connected to community support services and school-based case managers as needed and appropriate.
  - 1.5. To establish a restitution procedure which may involve the student, parent(s)/ guardian(s), teachers, counsellors, and administrator.
2. The Principal is responsible for the implementation of the following:
  - 2.1. Ensure that the Districts' Administration Procedure statement on substance use is communicated to students and parents at the beginning of each school year.
  - 2.2. Support school staff in working with parents and caregivers to assist them in fostering and maintaining connections to their child's school. Provide education and support that focuses on ways to develop strong relationships with youth.

- 2.3. Partner with community groups (Island Health, Community Services, Child and Youth Mental Health) to support current school programs or implement new programs at the school level which will engage at risk students and connect them to something or someone.
- 2.4. Ensure relevant curriculum and resources are made accessible to school staff to promote healthy lifestyles which includes problem solving, drug education, and prevention.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **Staff**

1. When any staff member has reason to believe a student is in direct or indirect possession or under the influence of a substance as defined above while attending school or involved in an official school function, the staff member shall:
  - 1.1. observe the student, if possible;
  - 1.2. only confront the student directly if comfortable with the circumstances;
  - 1.3. immediately inform a school administrator of the reasons for his/her concern; and
  - 1.4. if off school property, immediately contact a school administrator and seek direction.
2. When any staff member has reason to believe a student is placing himself / herself or others at risk by habitually abusing a substance as defined above, the staff member shall report the concern to a school administrator or the student's school counsellor.
3. When any staff member feels a student's substance use or other risk factors may put the student at extreme risk for harm, it is his / her duty to report the concern to the Ministry for Children & Families - Children Protection Branch.
4. Upon receiving a report that a student is placing himself / herself or others at risk by habitually abusing a substance as defined above, the school counsellor shall collaborate with a school administrator in the development of an intervention and support plan which, taking into account the age and individual circumstance of the student, may include one or more of the following:
  - 4.1. an interview of the student to determine the level of abuse;
  - 4.2. referral to the Youth & Child Care Worker and Youth Services Worker for further assessment and / or ongoing support;
  - 4.3. referral to community resource agencies for further assessment and support.
  - 4.4. recommendation of possible community support services to the parents/guardians of the student.

## **School Principal**

5. When a school administrator has reason to believe a student is in direct or indirect possession of a substance as defined above while attending school or involved in an official school function, the administrator shall:
  - 5.1. interview the student to determine the validity of the information;
  - 5.2. ask the student to produce any illegal or prohibited substances in his / her possession or in his / her locker;
  - 5.3. notify the student's parents;
  - 5.4. when necessary and in the presence of another staff member, conduct a search of the student's person and property for illegal or prohibited substances. The school administrator shall use the most reasonable, least intrusive method possible in searching the student and any property in the student's possession;
  - 5.5. when necessary, notify the police and seek their assistance.
6. If the school administrator determines that a student is in possession of any illegal drug as defined above, the administrator:
  - 6.1. shall notify the police;
  - 6.2. may suspend the student;
  - 6.3. may refer the matter to the appropriate district process.
7. If the school administrator has reason to believe the student is under the influence of a substance as defined above, the administrator:
  - 7.1. shall make every effort to ensure the health and safety of the student and others;
  - 7.2. shall contact the parents of the student;
  - 7.3. may suspend the student;
  - 7.4. may refer the matter to the appropriate district process.
8. Having completed the above procedures or upon receiving a report that a student is placing himself / herself or others at risk by habitually abusing a substance as defined above, the administrator shall collaborate with the school counsellor in the development of an intervention and support plan.

*Reference:*

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

Adopted: March 16, 2005

Amended: September 1, 2018