

THE USE OF TOBACCO, VAPING, ALCOHOL, RESTRICTED AND ILLICIT DRUGS BY STUDENTS

Background

To maintain a quality learning environment at school or on school related activities, and on the school bus to and from school, students shall not:

- use tobacco or vaping products;
- be in possession of, consume, or be under the influence of alcohol, and/or restricted or illicit drugs,
- traffic in or otherwise unlawfully distribute alcohol, and restricted or illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia.

The Division, in co-operation with families, community partners and law enforcement agencies, has a responsibility to:

- educate students regarding tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and drug abuse; and
- ensure that students who possess tobacco or vaping products, who are under the influence of, or who traffic in or otherwise unlawfully distribute alcohol/drugs while under school supervision, receive appropriate consequences.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Administrative Procedure:

Restricted drugs are any drug or substance capable of causing intoxication or impairment which is legally obtainable for recreational use and whose sale, purchase, possession, or transfer are restricted by law (such as cannabis).

Illicit Drugs are a drug that is illegal to have (for example, heroin and cocaine), and the non-medical use of drugs that are legally available such as pain killers and sleeping pills.

Procedures

1. Principals shall ensure that school educational programs (for example: CALM, health, science) include components designed to increase student knowledge of facts relating to tobacco, vaping and controlled substances including vaporizers, e-cigarettes, alcohol and restricted/illicit drugs.
2. The Division will co-operate with families, community partners, and provincial agencies in the provision of counselling and rehabilitative programs for the students who use and abuse alcohol and other drugs.

3. Misuse of tobacco, vaping products and controlled substances is illegal and will not be permitted on school property or in conjunction with school-sanctioned activities including extracurricular and off-site events.
4. Having consumed, being under the influence of, possessing, trafficking, or otherwise unlawfully distributing these substances at school or at off-site school activities is contrary to Administrative Procedure 350 – Student Conduct, and students engaging in such behaviour are subject to Administrative Procedure 355 – Student Discipline.
5. Parents/guardians will be notified in all instances of school-related tobacco/vaping/alcohol/drug violations.
6. Students who smoke or use tobacco/tobacco-like products (including e-cigarettes and vaping products) on or near school property, will be subject to the following consequences: first a warning and then progressive discipline up to and including suspension from school. If a student is given an in-school or out-of-school suspension for repeat noncompliant behaviour subsequent to the warning, the suspension letter should make reference to when the student was issued the warning about such behaviour.
7. Students will not be permitted to remain on school property while having consumed or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Appropriate supervision will be arranged for such students until a parent or guardian assumes safe custody.
8. Principals may involve police enforcement as a deterrent measure to discourage students from being under the influence of, in possession of, and/or trafficking or otherwise unlawfully distributing alcohol and drugs at school.
9. Principals shall suspend a student found at school or at a school sanctioned activity who has consumed, is under the influence of, is in possession of, is trafficking in or is otherwise unlawfully distributing alcohol or drugs. Principals shall use progressive discipline when determining consequences. Such consequences may range from in-school suspensions, suspensions between 1-5 days, and 5-day suspensions along with a recommendation for expulsion for more serious and repeat infractions.
10. Students who are suspended will have to meet with School Administration and parents to determine the conditions for re-entry prior to their return to school. Conditions may include:
 - limitations on school mobility
 - limitations on participation in extra-curricular activities
 - searches of personal items and property
 - modified schedule
 - requirements around counselling
11. The time frame for recording repeat infractions for consideration of consequences under section 9 above is cumulative for three (3) school years from the start of the student's registration with the Division.

12. Suspensions and expulsions shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Administrative Procedure 355 – Student Discipline.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016/SEP 2019/NOV 2019/DEC 2021/MAY 2022/NOV 2022
Reference: Section 11, 31, 33, 36, 37, 51, 53, 197, 222 Education Act