

**STUDENT INVOLVEMENT WITH ALCOHOL,  
INTOXICANTS OR ILLEGAL DRUGS**

Adopted: 1997-10-28	Reviewed: n/a	Amended: 2002-04-23 2012-06-19 2019-04-16
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**POLICY**SUBJECT: **STUDENT INVOLVEMENT WITH ALCOHOL, INTOXICANTS OR ILLEGAL DRUGS**

The Board of Education strictly prohibits students from possessing, manufacturing, offering for sale, selling, distributing, consuming, or using alcohol or drugs (including cannabis), during school hours whether on or off school property, or at any school function that takes place inside or outside the District's geographical boundaries.

In addition, the Board of Education strictly prohibits students from consuming or using alcohol or drugs at any time, including prior to school hours, such that the student is impaired when attending on school property or at any school function.

Effective October 17, 2018, the federal Cannabis Act made it legal for adults to purchase, possess, use, and grow certain amounts of cannabis in Canada. In BC, the government has enacted the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act (CCLA) and the Cannabis Distribution Act, which regulate how cannabis may be sold, distributed and consumed in British Columbia. The legislation includes significant restrictions aimed at preventing access to cannabis by persons under the age of 19. In particular, the CCLA prohibits the consumption of cannabis in or on school property, or within a prescribed distance from school property.

These changes to the law for adults do not change the law as it applies to persons under the age of 19. It remains illegal for persons who are under the age of 19 to possess and consume cannabis. To be clear, and without limiting the above prohibitions, it is a violation of this policy for any student to possess, use, or consume cannabis during school hours, whether on or off school property, or to use cannabis prior to school hours and attend on school property, or at a school function, impaired.

Students violating this policy may be subject to a suspension in accordance with the Regulations set out below.

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**REGULATIONS****SUBJECT: STUDENT INVOLVEMENT WITH ALCOHOL, INTOXICANTS OR ILLEGAL DRUGS**

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**Principals shall ensure that all students are aware of the School Code of Conduct and this policy at the beginning of each school year, and are reminded of this policy prior to school-sanctioned field or athletic trips.**

1. The Board of Education authorizes the Principal of a school, or his/her designate, to suspend a student for up to a maximum of ten (10) days when he/she concludes that a student has breached this policy.
2. Definitions:
  - i) Drug(s) includes but is not limited to any substance which affects a person's physical or mental capacity or functioning, which causes a marked change in consciousness, or which has a physiological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body, and includes both legal and illegal forms of such substances, but does not include medications taken in accordance with a physician's or manufacturer's directions.
  - ii) Impaired or Impairment means a deterioration or diminishment of an individual's physiological ability, functioning, judgment, or condition, and includes but is not limited to being unable to function as that individual does under normal or usual conditions, or safely because of intoxication by any substance.
  - iii) School function is defined as any student activity sanctioned by the school or school district, and includes but is not limited to field or athletic trips.
  - iv) School hours are defined as the hours of the day when a school is open to students whether or not classes are in session, all time students are attending a school function, or any time a student is away from the school on a school organized trip, including but not limited to times when a student is not actively participating in activities or pursuits organized by the school but is otherwise away from their normal residence due to their involvement in the school organized trip.
  - v) School property includes but is not limited to all real or personal property, facilities, land, buildings, parking lots, equipment, and vehicles, whether owned, leased or used by the Board of Education and wherever located.

3. Procedure:

- a) If a suspension is deemed to be warranted, for suspensions of ten (10) days or less, the Principal, or designate, shall proceed as follows:
  - i) Parents/guardians shall be contacted by telephone and/or personal interview prior to the student leaving the school or being sent home. Parents must also be informed that they have a right to appeal the suspension in accordance with Bylaw #21 - Student Appeals.
  - ii) If the parents/guardians cannot be contacted, the student is not to be sent home.
  - iii) A registered letter shall be sent to the parents/guardians informing them of the circumstances and duration of the suspension. A copy shall be sent to the Superintendent of Schools.
  - iv) The student shall be re-admitted to school by the authorized person who imposed the suspension. It is recommended that the student and/or parent/guardian meet with a member of the school administration prior to re-admittance to school.
- b) In the case where the Principal of a school or his/her designate, recommends that a student should be suspended for more than ten (10) days, he/she may suspend the student and inform the Superintendent, pending the following:
  - i) For recommended suspensions of more than 10 days, the matter shall be referred to the Board of Education for decision.

The Principal shall proceed as follows:

- ii) Parents/guardians shall be contacted by telephone and/or personal interview prior to the student leaving the school.
  - iii) A registered letter shall be sent to the parents/guardians informing them of the circumstances of the suspension and advising them that they shall be contacted by the Superintendent of Schools. A copy of this letter shall be sent to the Superintendent.
- c) The Superintendent shall proceed as follows:
- i) The Superintendent shall meet with the school Principal to formulate a recommendation to the Board of Education.
  - ii) The District Review Committee or the Board as required shall meet at the earliest opportunity to consider the circumstances and recommendation.
  - iii) Notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given to all parties involved at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

- iv) The attendance of the student at this meeting is mandatory. The attendance of the parents/guardians at this meeting is encouraged but is not mandatory.
  - v) After considering the information given by school personnel and the student or parents/guardians, the Board may suspend the student for a period of time deemed appropriate to the offence. In special circumstances, when the Board feels that it is appropriate, alternatives to suspension from school may be considered.
  - vi) It is recommended that the student and/or parent/guardian meet with a member of the school administration prior to re-admittance to school.
4. A decision of the Principal may be appealed as provided for in Bylaw No. 21.
  5. Where appropriate, the Principal may require that the student enroll in a drug/alcohol counselling program prior to returning to school.
  6. The R.C.M.P. will be informed of any students violating this policy in relation to alcohol or drugs, and any physical evidence shall be turned over to them for disposal.
  7. During the period of the suspension, schools shall ensure that students have an opportunity to pick up assignments and return completed assignments for marking.

Related Policies:

- [Policy 4033 \(Smoking, Tobacco, the Use of Vapour Products and Cannabis\)](#)
- [Policy 7007 \(Student Code of Conduct\)](#)