

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division is committed to providing appropriate programming and interventions for drug and alcohol related issues. The division recognizes that drug and alcohol use interferes with student learning.

The purposes of this policy are;

- a) to ensure that alcohol and drugs are not brought into the school, and
- b) to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

This Policy is organized into three major sections:

1. Prevention
2. Intervention for students with identified alcohol or drug issues
3. Disciplinary actions regarding drug and alcohol related infractions

1.0 Prevention

1.1 The Objectives of Prevention Curriculum and Programming

- a) To help students develop and maintain effective and responsible decision-making and communication skills.
- b) To assist students in developing and maintaining a healthy and productive lifestyle.
- c) To establish feelings of positive self-esteem and personal competence in our students.
- d) To provide students with information and knowledge about the risks associated with drug and alcohol use.
- e) To provide students meaningful alternatives to the use of alcohol and drugs.
- f) To help students understand the harmful health, social, personal, and legal consequences of drug and alcohol use.
- g) To help reduce the proportion of students who drink under age or misuse drugs.
- h) To help reduce harmful consumption levels and practices among students who do use alcohol or other drugs.

The Division will continue to provide opportunities for staff members to enhance their knowledge and skills with respect to alcohol and drug education.

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The Division will conduct surveys from time to time to determine if the prevention objectives are being met.

2.0 Intervention

The objectives for an intervention program are:

- a) To encourage students to make healthy, responsible decisions related to alcohol and other drug use.
- b) To reduce consumption practices amongst students.
- c) To offer assistance to students affected by their own or others' use of alcohol or other drugs.

Referrals will be handled in a respectful and confidential manner. Referral information will not be included in the student's cumulative file.

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division is committed to identifying and providing assistance to students requiring support in dealing with drug and alcohol issues. These types of supports could include:

- School counselling services
- School-based support groups
- Educational Support Services
- Addictions Foundation of Manitoba
- Other community programs

3.0 Disciplinary Actions Regarding Drug and Alcohol Related Infractions

The use or possession of alcohol and drugs in the school environment is strictly prohibited. The procedures provided herein will be applied consistently by all members of the school staff under the direction of the principal.

School personnel will ensure that the student and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are made aware of the nature and consequences of the student's actions. Students 18 years of age and older are legally responsible for their actions.

3.1 Consumption/Suspicion of Alcohol and Other Illicit and Non-Illicit Drugs (e.g. Cannabis)

The First Infraction

The principal will do the following:

- i) Confiscate any alcohol or other drugs present.
- ii) Contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to advise of the situation and disciplinary procedures.

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- iii) Advise the student of the consequences should there be a subsequent infraction.
- iv) Conduct a search of the student's locker and personal effects if necessary.
- v) Contact the police for assistance or advice if necessary.
- vi) Arrange for the safe departure of the student from the school property. Assistance may be required from parent(s), emergency contacts or police.
- vii) Arrange for appropriate follow-up with the student and/or parent(s) and legal guardian(s). This may include referral to school-based and/or community-based counselling services.
- viii) Suspend the student for up to five days and record the student's infraction of the alcohol and drug policy. Upon the student's re-entry to school, the principal may require the parent(s)/guardian(s) to return with the student.

Subsequent Infractions

The principal will do the following:

- i) Refer to First Infractions list above (i –vii).
- ii) Suspend the student for five days and request that the Superintendent extend the suspension up to six (6) weeks.
- iii) Require the student to attend a session and/or subsequent sessions with Addictions Foundation of Manitoba or other appropriate agency.

3.2 Possession of Alcohol, and Other Illicit Drugs and Non-Illicit Drugs (e.g. Cannabis) and Drug Paraphernalia**The First Infraction**

The principal will do the following:

- i) Confiscate any alcohol, illicit or non-illicit drugs or paraphernalia present.
- ii) Advise the student of the consequences should there be a subsequent infraction.
- iii) Conduct a search of the student's locker and personal effects if necessary.
- iv) Contact the police for assistance or advice if necessary.
- v) Contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to advise of the situation and disciplinary procedures.
- vi) Arrange a meeting with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to share further information and to discuss available school-based and/or community-based counselling services.

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- vii) Suspend the student for up to five days, record the student's infraction of the alcohol and drug policy and may require the parent(s)/guardian(s) to return with the student to school.
- viii) Recommend that the student consult with Addictions Foundation of Manitoba or other appropriate agency.

Subsequent Infractions

The principal will do the following:

- i) Refer to First Infractions list above (i –vi).
- ii) Suspend the student for five days, and request that the Superintendent extend the suspension up to six (6) weeks.
- iii) Require the student to attend a session and/or subsequent sessions at Addictions Foundation of Manitoba or other appropriate agency.

3.3 Supplying/Selling of Alcohol, Other Illicit and Non-Illicit Drugs (e.g. Cannabis) and Drug Paraphernalia

The principal will do the following:

- i) Confiscate any alcohol or other drugs or drug paraphernalia present.
- ii) Contact the police.
- iii) Notify the parent(s)/guardian(s).
- iv) Suspend the student for five days, record the student's infraction of the alcohol and drug policy, and, depending on the circumstances; either,
 - a) May request that the Superintendent extend the suspension up to six weeks with earlier return to school possible upon evidence of successful involvement with counselling services with Addictions Foundation of Manitoba or other appropriate agency; or
 - b) Request that the Board expel the student.

The school will assist the parent(s), students or legal guardian(s) to arrange for both school-based or community-based assessment and counselling services.

- 3.4** If a school administrator reports a student to the police as a result of alcohol or drug issues, the administrator shall inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) that the police have been notified.

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