

5013: PUPIL INVOLVEMENT WITH ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL (AP)

Approved: 84 10 16
Amended: 02 04 23
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POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to outline a comprehensive district-wide strategy to prevent the use and possession of drugs and/or alcohol in School District 70 (Alberni).

The Board of Education believes that all students have a right to attend school in an environment conducive to learning. Since alcohol and other drug possession, supply or sale is illegal and interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of all individuals, the school district is committed to preventing drug and/or alcohol use and to maintaining a drug/alcohol-free educational environment during school hours and at any school function that takes place inside or outside district boundaries.

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of working in partnership with students, parents, community groups, social agencies and the RCMP to achieve safe, caring and orderly schools.

The Board of Education believes that an effective drug and/or alcohol prevention strategy encompasses three aspects: prevention, intervention and rehabilitation.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1.0 DEFINITIONS

1.1 In this Policy, the word “drug” means:

Alcohol or any “controlled substance”, as defined by the Controlled Drug and Substances Act (CDSA), that is not prescribed by a qualified medical practitioner, including but not limited to cannabis, opiates, amphetamines, methamphetamines or barbiturates.

2.0 PREVENTION

2.1 The school district supports the *Health Canada* definition of the elements of an effective prevention program.

- Help students to develop social competencies and social skills.
 - Deliver a clear and consistent 'no use' message.
 - Allow students to practice resisting negative influences and refusing drugs and/or alcohol.
 - Reward students for positive behaviours.
 - Promote positive peer relationships.
 - Provide an opportunity for students to discuss and practice becoming positive peer models.
 - Promote a school climate that encourages positive behaviours, including a commitment to stay drug/alcohol free.
 - Involve parents, caregivers and students.
 - Enhance communications and form partnerships between the home, the school, and the community to provide an opportunity for prevention strategies to become internalised and institutionalised.
- 2.2 The district believes in the asset building approach to prevention, i.e. working to reduce those factors that increase the risk of harmful behaviours (risk factors) and building on those factors that help to protect young people from harmful behaviours by either reducing impact of the risk or by changing the way they respond to the risks (protective factors).
- 2.3 All district schools will implement articulated prevention education programming. An outline of the program will be filed with the Assistant Superintendent.

3.0 INTERVENTION

- 3.1 The principal of a school is responsible for ensuring that this policy is communicated to students and parents at the beginning of each school year.
- 3.2 The principal of a school is responsible for ensuring that students and parents are advised that lockers may be subject to random searches at any time to ensure compliance with this policy and that drug-sniffing dogs may be used to conduct such searches.
- 3.3 A student who is in possession of or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol while at school or at a school sponsored event will be disciplined.
- 3.3.1 A first offence will result in a five-day suspension. Conditions for readmission are:
- completion of all assigned school work
 - completion of a substance abuse educative assignment

- meeting with parents
 - signed school-based contract
- 3.4 A second offence will result in a ten-day suspension. Conditions for readmission are:
- evidence that the student can succeed in a school environment without further abuse of drugs and/or alcohol, such as proof of enrolment in an approved intervention program
 - completion of all assigned school work
 - meeting with parents
 - signed school-based contract
- 3.5 Subsequent offences will result in an indefinite suspension to the Board. In accordance with the School Act the Board may:
- place students under 16 years of age in a home study program for a specified period of time
 - refuse “to offer an educational program” to those students who are 16 years of age or older
- 3.6 Students who are found to be distributing or selling drugs and/or alcohol will be indefinitely suspended and face a Board hearing.
- 3.7 Principals shall report all violations of this Policy to the RCMP and turn over all physical evidence to them.

4.0 REHABILITATION

- 4.1 The district will work in concert with other agencies to endeavour to bring students who have contravened this policy back into a healthy and constructive relationship with their school and the school community.
- 4.2 The district will maintain an active registry of organizations willing to assist in helping redirect, support and counsel students with drug and/or alcohol problems.

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