

DRUG, ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE BY STUDENTS

The Division recognizes that the abuse of illicit drugs, cannabis, alcohol or other substances or the misuse of prescription or legal drugs can be detrimental to the health, welfare and safety of all students. The Division prohibits the use, possession or distribution of these items. The Division provides educational programs to prevent drug and alcohol abuse which assist in developing decision-making skills regarding such substances and support to those dealing with additions.

As used in the policy, “drugs” are all substances defined under the statutes as “drug” or “controlled substances”, as well as counterfeit drugs and substances falsely represented as being drugs, whether legal or illegal.

As used in this policy, “legal drugs” are defined as over-the-counter and prescription drugs, including vitamins and other dietary supplements, that are properly possessed and used by the person for whom they are intended in accordance with all applicable policies and regulations.

As used in this policy, “illicit drugs” are all drugs not defined herein as legal drugs.

Student use, possession, distribution or being under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol is prohibited:

- In any Division building.
- On all Division premises.
- At Division or school-sanctioned activities or events.
- When students are being transported in vehicles dispatched by the Division or one of its schools, whether by Division owned vehicle or by parent or volunteer vehicle.
- Off school property when such conduct has a connection to school or any Division activity or event, such as a field trip or athletic event or any school sponsored event.

The Division believes that effective prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse requires the combined efforts of parents/guardians and the Division and hold that parents/guardians have the responsibility to cooperate with the Division in attempting to prevent drug and alcohol abuse problems and to seek help from public and private agencies for students involved in drug and alcohol abuse. Parents/guardians of a student involved in alcohol and drug abuse shall be contacted immediately by the School Administrator or designate. School authorities may also contact the police.

Possession, continued use and selling of substances covered by this policy will result in disciplinary consequences and in criminal charges as warranted.

The Division, through the Physical Education and Health curriculum, shall implement age-appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and abuse-prevention programs for all students in all divisional schools.

The Division will recommend assessment programs and supports where student's usage and behaviour warrants.