

POLICY 15: SMOKE FREE BUILDINGS

SMOKE FREE BUILDINGS

The smoking and chewing of tobacco is banned from all school buildings and the School Division office building.

The guidelines for implementation are as follows:

1. No smoking shall be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds (excluding rental buildings) or the central office building.
2. This ban applies for 24 hours per day, every day, whether the buildings are used for school, entertainment, recreation, business, private function, and even if one is the sole occupant of the premises.

The following procedures are outlined:

1. Signs are to be posted at each entrance of each school and the Central Office building indicating that these premises have been designated as "Smoke Free" areas.
2. Principals in conjunction with staff will be charged with the responsibility of the supervision of student behavior under this policy.
3. Students who violate this ban, will be subject to disciplinary action.
4. Employees who violate this ban shall be subject to disciplinary action.
5. Any member of the public, who is in contravention of this policy, may lose their right to enter or use the premises. In all school buildings, the right of entry shall be withheld at the discretion of the principal of that building. Failure to comply with the request to leave the premises or failure to remain off the premises as requested shall result in a charge of "Trespassing" being laid.

Legal Reference: Section 60, School Act

Amended February 2014

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 226

226 TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO**Background**

The Division recognizes its responsibility to provide information about the dangers of the use of alcohol and tobacco as well as the abusive use of drugs. The Division also recognizes a parent's right of supervision in these areas and therefore their right to request their child not attend such classes.

Procedures

The Superintendent shall approve the design of programs in this area offered by staff or suitably qualified resource personnel.

346 SMOKING BY STUDENTS

The Division recognizes its responsibility to prevent students under 18 years of age from smoking. Smoking and the possession of tobacco products by students under the age of 18, while in or on school property, while in transportation designated as student transportation, or while attending school-sponsored activities, is prohibited.

The Division believes that smoking is a significant health hazard to both the smoker and those nearby.

References

Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act

347 USE OF SUBSTANCES

Rationale

Canadian Rockies Public Schools is committed to promoting the health and well-being of all students and creating an inclusive environment where all students feel safe and cared for. We understand the importance of reaching out and extending a caring approach to students at risk to enhance connectedness and to support academic development and success. Research shows the most important factors found in reducing risk behaviours were students feeling connected to their school community and caring adults in the schools. Our approach is on strength based practices which focuses on identifying, exploring and using the individual strengths of youth to foster positive outcomes within the school setting.

- * Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are addictive, are harmful to the school community and threaten the health and well-being of students. Canadian Rockies Public Schools acknowledges that creating a healthy environment for the school community is everyone's responsibility.
- * Canadian Rockies Public Schools strives to ensure that the following substances are not permitted while on school property, school buses or during school-related activities; or that students are not under the influence of the following while attending school:
 - use or possess tobacco products
 - consume or possess alcohol
 - inhale solvents
 - use or possess pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical purposes
 - use or possess illicit drugs
 - use or possess drug-related paraphernalia (syringes, bongs, pipes)
 - If a student is using pharmaceutical drugs for legitimate medical purposes, administration will consult the file for confirmation.

Defining Terms

- * **Substances** are chemicals, not food, that are taken into the body for non-medicinal purposes, or in non-accordance with a medical prescription. This includes, but is not limited to, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, inhalants/solvents, depressants, narcotics/opiates, hallucinogens, mixed-action drugs, performance-enhancing drugs, and stimulants.

Substance Abuse refers to any use of a substance that causes personal, emotional, social, legal, health, school-related, or financial problems.

Substance Use refers to any use of a substance.

Protective factors are those associated with reduced potential for substance abuse.

Risk factors are those that make substances use more likely.

Reparation is repairing the damage caused to relationships and finding mutually acceptable ways forward.

Restorative Practice is defined by its emphasis on respect and relationships. Restorative justice/practice works to repair the damage and promote healing and growth. The principles are respect, inclusiveness, accountability, reparation, and restoration.

This procedure is

- part of the district's broader health and wellness promotion and substance use prevention programming
- supportive of those engaging in at-risk behaviours
- applied fairly to everyone

Canadian Rockies Public Schools has created a comprehensive prevention strategy that prohibits the use of substances on school property, on school buses or during school-related activities.

This procedure was developed in consultation with principals, teachers, other school staff, allied professionals, students, parents and community members. This procedure will be reviewed by the committee every three years to ensure that it remains relevant and effective (which may include a needs assessment).

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURES

Prevention

To contribute to the prevention of substance use/abuse among Canadian Rockies Public Schools students:

- substance use/abuse and related prevention programs will be offered in the schools in a coordinated, integrated and sequential manner in accordance with best practices. They will be based on the Alberta Education Program of Studies for Health and Life Skills - Kindergarten to Grade Nine Guide to Implementation or Career and Life Management Guide to Implementation.
- the expectations about the use/abuse of substances will be clearly communicated to students. School administrators will be responsible for communicating this information to their school community.
- the school administration and school counsellor(s) have leadership roles in implementing and monitoring prevention initiatives and procedures for dealing with substance use/abuse, and evaluating the prevention and intervention strategies, including collaboration with community partners.

To identify the role of the school community in the prevention of substances use/abuse:

Professional preparedness is critical in engaging teachers and administration in the promotion of mental health in daily routines and interactions with students. This could involve:

- promotion of health promoting environments on a universal level
- ensuring the understanding and delivery of the program of studies involving mental health and substance use
- determine and provide professional development to support school personnel in creating and maintaining a healthy school environment
- build family involvement to support a healthy school environment
- continue to build a network of relationships that enhances protective factors for students
- responses to unacceptable conduct are immediate, consistent and fair
- disciplinary actions, whenever possible, are preventive and restorative
- students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences

If staff and visitors are displaying behaviour associated with substance use/abuse on school property, or are under the influence of non-permitted substances, on school buses or during school-related activities, the school administrator will consult with the staff/visitor regarding appropriate intervention strategies.

Interventions

To provide intervention and support for students who are experiencing substance use/abuse, or who are at risk,

Canadian Rockies Public Schools believes that it is in students' best interests to have substance use/abuse identified as early as possible.

Strategy 1: Staff training and support

All staff will be provided with information and have access to training about identification of problems and intervention with behaviors that may be related to substance use/abuse. This should be delivered annually.

Strategy 2: Immediate intervention when staff suspects student substance use

If a staff member believes that a student is under the influence of substances, he or she is to contact the school administration immediately.

Strategy 3: Ongoing behavior Indicators of student(s) at risk

If a staff member, in their professional judgment, believes that a student is displaying behaviour associated with substance use/abuse, the staff member will consult with the school counsellor and /or AHS. The counsellor and administrator will determine next steps; bring concerns to school team meetings. Teachers will be informed of follow-up plans.

Strategy 4: Progressive Interventions

To determine the options for reparation following a student substance use incident consider the following:

Progressive intervention is an approach that makes use of a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences, building upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. The use of restorative practices as a component of progressive discipline is a means of building relationships, strengthening school communities, and maintaining safe, inclusive school cultures. The range of interventions, supports, and consequences used by the District and all schools must be firm, fair, clear and developmentally appropriate and must include learning opportunities for students in order to reinforce positive behaviours and help students make good choices.

Forgiveness underpins the District approach to dealing with students who make mistakes. Many mistakes are made by young people through lack of careful attention to others or to rules. Often there is no intention to harm, and when harm is intended, the young person involved may have little real understanding of the effects of their harmful actions. Actions have consequences and these consequences must be understood for the safety of all.

Use or possession of substances, on school property, on school buses or during school-related activities could result in the following:

- collaborative problem solving with all parties involved with the goal of restoring the relationship(s) that have been impacted by substance use
- remove privileges for short and long terms
- make alternative learning arrangements in and out of school which may include projects related to the issues at hand (developed in collaboration with school based and AHS team)
- require restitution for property damage to the school or individuals
- make referrals to other agencies such as: social workers, police officers, Alberta Attendance Board, child welfare workers, etc
- in-school suspension from a class or school may include projects related to the issues at hand (developed in collaboration with school based and AHS team)
- out-of-school suspension
- involve RCMP for any illegal activities
- recommend expulsion from the school

Evidence of Trafficking

The student will serve a 5-day suspension, as outlined in the guidelines provided in the School Act, with a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools, for expulsion. RCMP will be notified.