

USE OF ALCOHOL, CANNABIS, TOBACCO/NICOTINE OR RESTRICTED AND ILLICIT DRUGS

Background

The Division recognizes its responsibility to ensure the creation of a healthy learning environment for students. The Division has a responsibility to promote the health of its students by restricting their access to illicit substances, such as alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarettes, vapes, tobacco/nicotine or other restricted substances.

The Division prohibits:

1. Smoking or vaping by all persons at all times in all Division facilities, during all Division activities and events, and on Division property.
2. Consumption of smokeless tobacco/nicotine products, including but not limited to chewing tobacco, snuff, oral nicotine pouches (unless prescribed by a physician or psychiatrist).
3. The misuse of prescription medication.
4. The possession or use of controlled substances as defined by federal or provincial law, including and not limited to opioids, alcohol, MDMA, methamphetamines, and cannabis.
5. The possession of any drug paraphernalia.

Procedures

1. Schools shall ensure that the educational programs include components designed to increase students' knowledge of the facts relating to controlled substances, cannabis, and alcohol.
2. If a student fails to adhere to this procedure, the principal will take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance the Division's progressive discipline model (see Administrative Procedure 350 – Student Discipline Framework, Administrative Procedure 354 - Suspensions/Expulsions).
3. School officials will cooperate with law enforcement agencies in surveillance of the trafficking or use of controlled substances on school premises.

4. Staff members/supervisors observing students suspected of possession or use of controlled substances shall document the findings and report the incident to the Principal/designate immediately.
5. Staff members/supervisors suspecting a student of using any of the above listed substances, may explore supportive strategies such as counseling referral, reporting to parents/guardians, and/or other interventions.
6. Additional supervision may be required if students report being fearful of using the washroom and/or other school areas due to illicit drug use in the location.
7. Subsequent to meeting the student's immediate needs (medical attention, legal guidance, parent contact), remedial assistance should be sought for the student by the family and the counsellor or appropriate staff member through Alberta Health Services.
8. Regarding use of tobacco as part of Indigenous ceremonial practices, please refer to Administrative Procedure 163 - Smudging & Pipe Ceremonies.
9. Principals shall:
 - 9.1. Share this Administrative Procedure quarterly with staff, and communicate this at the beginning of each school year parents. This shall also be referenced in the student handbook.
 - 9.2. Implement strategies that promote an educational awareness and/or counseling component.
 - 9.3. In cases of suspected addiction, the principal will support the student in accessing appropriate resources and services.

References: Section 11, 31, 36, 37, 53, Education Act

Bill C-45, An Act respecting cannabis and to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Criminal Code and other Acts
Administrative Procedure 350 – Student Discipline Framework
Administrative Procedure 356 – Interrogation and Searches