

Kelsey School Division Box 4700 The Pas, MB R9A 1R4 Phone: 623-6421	Code: JFCI
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STUDENT DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

A. RATIONALE

Kelsey School Division No. 45 recognizes that the use of illegal and unauthorized drugs (including alcohol) constitutes a serious hazard to the positive development of students and impairs their ability to learn and meet their responsibilities as students. Moreover, such use of drugs is deemed to be harmful not only to the user but also to those around them. Because such behaviour is injurious to the welfare of the school, use, possession of, or being under the influence of illicit drugs in or on school property or at any school-sponsored event is strictly prohibited.

Wherever the word "drug" is used, it implies drugs and alcohol.

The following are the components of the Division's approach to illicit drug (including alcohol) problems:

Prevention

Various school presentations will be used to encourage students to demonstrate attitudes and behaviours that promote a positive life style behaviour.

Intervention

An established process will be used by which caring persons confront an individual with data regarding the student's alcohol/drug use behaviours in an effort to help the individual seek appropriate corrective measures. The availability of counsellors shall be promoted in the community.

Counselling and Rehabilitation

All staff are to be advised that they are responsible for identifying students who, as a result of irregular behaviour patterns and/or declining personal performance over a period of time, are suspected alcohol or drug abusers and for bringing them to the attention of the principal. An organized support system will be made available for identified students.

Staff Development

Staff members will be provided with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to identify and respond to drug/alcohol problems of students.

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Process

1. If a staff member has reason to believe that a student is illegally using drugs during the normal school day, the staff member must report this suspicion to the principal immediately.
2. When a student is found, during the regular school day, to be in possession or under the influence of unauthorized drugs, the school principal may impose disciplinary measures independent of court action.
3. If a principal has reasonable grounds for believing that a student is in possession of, under the influence of, selling or distributing alcohol or other illicit drugs, the principal shall notify the appropriate authorities and parents of minor students and shall impose disciplinary measures .

B. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Any student in violation of the provisions herein shall be subject to the following disciplinary procedure:

First Offence

On the first violation, the principal shall:

1. refer the matter to the police for legal action where appropriate;
2. suspend the student for such a period as deemed necessary while remaining within the provision of the Public Schools Act;
3. notify a parent of the action taken, where appropriate;
4. submit a detailed report with recommendations to the Superintendent, who may take further action on the recommendation.
5. The principal will:
 - a) set up a conference with the parent(s)/ guardian(s), student, and any other resource deemed appropriate.
 - b) establish conditions and expectations to be met by the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) before the student is readmitted to school. These will include the following:

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- i) a written statement and commitment by the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) that such occurrence will not happen again;
- ii) a commitment by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student to make provisions acceptable to the school authorities, to seek and receive help (medical, psychological, psychiatric) to overcome the problem.
- iii) acceptance by the student of his responsibility to keep up to date in school studies.
- iv) a written declaration by the student agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of the school.
- v) receipt and acceptance by the parent(s) and the student of a written warning (prepared by the principal) that the next offence regarding drugs will result in an indefinite suspension pending a review of the case which may result in a recommendation for expulsion.
- vi) other conditions depending on the circumstances.

Repeat Offence

1. The principal will refer the case to the police for legal action where appropriate.
2. The principal will notify the parent(s) where appropriate, and give written notice that the student has been suspended indefinitely and that expulsion is being considered.
3. The principal will submit a detailed report of the case with recommendations to the Superintendent.
4. The Superintendent will review the case submitted, and if expulsion of the student is recommended and warranted, will make this recommendation to the Board.
5. The Board shall make the final decision on the case.

Stays of Disciplinary Action

The suspension and/or disciplinary action of a student due to a first offence of the Board's alcohol and drug policies may be "stayed" in whole or in part, providing that the student becomes involved in an "approved" program of chemical rehabilitation. Approved programs include: regular counselling sessions with school counsellors, regular counselling sessions with Community Health Workers, regular attendance at Narcotics Anonymous meetings and/or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, participation in an addiction's recommended or supervised program, combinations of these programs, or any other rehabilitation program as might be deemed necessary and appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools.

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Application for such a "stay" of disciplinary action or suspension shall be made by the student, or on the student's behalf, to the principal of the affected student's school who, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools and under the power of approval of the Superintendent of Schools, shall inform the student of the decision.

All students subject to suspension due to initial infractions of the Board's alcohol and drug policies, shall be informed of the existence of the "Stays of Disciplinary Action" clause. Further, students expressing interest in submitting an application for such a "stay" shall be assisted in the process by the administration of the applicable school.

Should such a stay of disciplinary action or suspension be granted, a specific contract defining the particular program, frequency, and length of expected participation, and methods of substantiating program involvement will be drawn and signed by the student, the parents or guardians of the student, and the principal.

Ongoing attendance and participation in the sanctioned program must be regularly substantiated. The responsibility for substantiation is on the student in an agreed-upon method. Should the attendance or substantiation of attendance at the approved program be discontinued prior to the agreed-upon completion of the program, or should the disciplined behaviour re-occur, the "stayed" portion of the disciplinary action will be applied.