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DRUG, ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE BY STUDENTS

The Division recognizes that alcohol and other drug abuse is a problem in our society and acknowledges the negative health and life-style effects it can have on students personally, as well as on their ability to learn. The Division will work with parents/guardians and agencies within the community in the promotion, enhancement, and maintenance of a drug free school system and student body. The Division will therefore implement the following:

Preventative Curriculum

As used in this policy, “drugs” are all substances defined under statutes as “drugs” 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 but not limited to 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 above as legal drugs, including cannabis (marijuana).

The Division recognizes the role of drug education in reducing alcohol and drug related problems and will give high priority to the implementation of a drug education curriculum through its support of the Physical Education and Health Curriculum and teaching that:

- the unlawful possession and/or use of illicit drugs and alcohol, is wrong and harmful,
- the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs, and alcohol,
- the standards of conduct and prohibition on the possession, use, distribution, gift, purchase, exchange, sale or being under the influence of illicit drugs, and alcohol,
- available drug and alcohol counselling and rehabilitation programs,

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- penalties that may be imposed for the possession, use, distribution, gift, purchase, exchange, sale or being under the influence of illicit drugs, and alcohol in violation of this policy,
- healthy decision – making with respect to the use of cannabis, once legalized

Early Identification and Intervention

The Division recognizes the need for early identification and intervention programming to identify and provide early assistance to students who are experiencing problems related to **illicit** drugs, alcohol, or other substances detrimental to the health, welfare and safety of all students.

The early identification and intervention program will:

- acquaint staff with procedures to be followed when dealing with alcohol and other drug related situations,
- familiarize staff with the signs and symptoms of alcohol and drug use by students, and the effects of alcohol and drug use by others on students,
- familiarize staff with student referral processes,
- train appropriate staff in assessment and counselling skills relating to alcohol and other drug use by students, or the effects of alcohol and drug use by others on students,
- inform all students and their parents/guardians of the existence of the early identification and intervention programs and how to access the programs,
- assist in providing parents/guardians and others in the community with information, skills, and opportunities to support youth in their efforts to remain drug free, and encourage and support educational initiatives within the community to address alcohol and drug issues and concerns; and when deemed appropriate, support of the placement of a Youth Intervention Worker (A.F.M.)

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External Assessment and Interventions

Should there be repeated incidents where drug and alcohol concerns are deemed to be contributing to school performance difficulties for a particular student, and all efforts have been exhausted to assess and assist in this regard, the School Administrator or designate may:

- require a more formal, external assessment to occur that will provide recommendations for subsequent action and, if necessary,
- make allowances for a student's non-attendance at school during the assessment period.

Disciplinary Action

The use, possession, and/or distribution of alcohol, or illicit drugs is strictly prohibited. Illicit drugs, as defined in this policy, and alcohol are not to be used by, nor to be in the possession of, individuals during school activities and school related activities on or off school property. Furthermore, no student is to be under the influence of alcohol, or illicit drugs during school programs, activities or events. When a student is found to be in possession of, or under the influence of, and/or distributing alcohol, or illicit drugs, the school administration shall impose disciplinary measures as identified in the procedures under this policy and the Division's Standard of Behaviour.

Recovery Supports

The Division believes it is the role of the school to assist a student who is entering into a treatment program, is participating in a treatment program, or is returning to school after participating in a treatment program. At these times the school will:

- work with parents/guardians and outside agencies to facilitate transitions in/out of these programs and assist in the development and implementation of an ongoing educational plan for the recovering students,
- establish realistic plans for the recovering student regarding school performance and expectations,
- work with others in determining and providing the supports needed to implement each recovery plan,
- recognize and accommodate the need to revise a recovery plan as educational/recovery goals change.

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Procedures Respecting the Possession or Use of Alcohol, Cannabis, and Other Illicit Drugs on School Premises

The School Administrator or designate shall confiscate any alcohol or other drug(s) present, contact the parents/guardians to advise of the situation and arrange for the departure of the student from school property to a safe place (i.e. home, hospital).

In all cases, the School Administrator or designate shall subsequently arrange for appropriate follow-up with the students and parent/guardian, and may report the matter to the Winnipeg Police Service.

The School Administrator or designate shall undertake appropriate disciplinary or follow-up actions. These may include:

- suspension of the student;,
- a requirement for the student to attend an agency program (i.e. A.F.M.),
- referral of the student to a school-based and/or community-based counselling service,
- a determination that the return of the student to school be contingent upon assessment by community-based services (i.e. A.F.M.),
- such other conditions or consequences as may be deemed appropriate by the School Administrator or designate.

Procedures Respecting the Supplying/Selling of Alcohol, Cannabis or Other Illicit Drugs on School Premises

The Division considers the supplying/selling of alcohol and drugs in the school environment a serious breach of policy and such actions will not be tolerated.

In all cases when a student is found to have been supplying or selling alcohol, or illicit drugs on school premises the School Administrator or designate shall:

- confiscate the alcohol or drugs present and immediately contact the parents/guardians and refer the matter to the police; and
- suspend the student with such conditions as may be determined by the School Administrator and supported by the Division's Standard of Behaviour.

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