



Drugs

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline a comprehensive district-wide strategy to prevent the use and possession of drugs in School District No. 34 (Abbotsford).

Policy

Definitions

In this Policy, the word “drug” means:

Alcohol or any “controlled substance”, as defined by the Controlled Drug and Substances Act (CDSA), that is not prescribed by a qualified medical practitioner, including but not limited to cannabis, opiates, amphetamines, methamphetamines or barbiturates.

Introduction

The Board of Education believes that all students have a right to attend school in an environment conducive to learning. Since alcohol and other drug possession, supply or sale is illegal and interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of all individuals, the school district is committed to preventing drug use and to maintaining a drug-free educational environment.

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of working in partnership with students, parents, community groups, social agencies and the Abbotsford Police Department to achieve safe, caring and orderly schools.

The Board of Education believes that an effective drug prevention strategy encompasses three aspects: prevention, intervention and rehabilitation.

Prevention

The school district supports the *Health Canada* definition of the elements of an effective prevention program.

- Help students to develop social competencies and social skills.
- Deliver a clear and consistent ‘no use’ message.
- Allow students to practice resisting negative influences and refusing drugs.
- Reward students for positive behaviours.
- Promote positive peer relationships.
- Provide an opportunity for students to discuss and practice becoming positive peer models.
- Promote a school climate that encourages positive behaviours, including a commitment to stay drug-free.
- Involve parents, caregivers and students.
- Enhance communications and form partnerships between the home, the school, and the community to provide an opportunity for prevention strategies to become internalized and institutionalized.

The district believes in the asset building approach to prevention. The asset building approach recognizes that many behaviours of young people are shaped by powerful factors within the family, peer group, school and community. The asset building approach works to minimize those factors that increase the risk of harmful behaviours (risk factors), and builds on those factors that help to protect young people from harmful behaviours by either reducing impact of the risks or by changing the way they respond to the risks (protective factors).

Risk factors that the school can help address include:

- early and persistent antisocial behaviour
- academic failure in elementary school
- lack of commitment to school
- friends involved in a problem behaviour
- favourable attitudes toward the problem behaviour
- early involvement in the problem behaviour

Protective factors the school can help promote include:

- positive bonds to home, school and community
- clear standards for behaviours and strong norms against drug use
- problem solving and interpersonal skills
- meaningful involvement in caring activities, such as service to others
- a sense of purpose and a positive view of personal future
- extra-curricular programs and activities

All district schools will implement prevention education programming. District staff will ensure schools follow the prescribed curriculum. The recommended approaches at each level include:

- Lions Quest Skills for Growing Grades K-5
- BC Tobacco Facts Heart Smart Kids Grades K-3
- BC Tobacco Facts Grades 4-6
- Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence Grades 6-8
- BC Tobacco Facts Grades 4-6, 7-8
- Lions Quest Skills for Action Grades 9-10
- BC Tobacco Facts Grades 9-10

Intervention

Students shall not attend school or any school-organized or sponsored event while under the influence of drugs. Students shall not buy, sell, distribute or possess drugs on school premises or at any event that is organized or sponsored by a school.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the established School Code of Conduct and with relevant district regulations.

Drug detection dogs from an accredited organization may be used to detect illegal substances or dangerous objects in lockers used by students where the school administrators or their designates consider such action to be in the interests of student safety or the maintenance of a safe school environment.

The principal, vice-principal or a Board-approved designate may conduct random locker searches to ensure compliance with school board policy regarding drugs.

Drug detection dogs from an accredited organization may also be used in other areas on school premises (including parking lots) and on unattended property found on school premises, but only in circumstances where school administrators or their designates have a reasonable suspicion that the search will result in the detection of illegal substances or dangerous objects.

Rehabilitation

The Board of Education will work in concert with other agencies to endeavor to bring the students who have contravened this policy back into a healthy and constructive relationship with their school and the school community. Organizations such as Abbotsford Restorative Justice, Impact, and other community-approved agencies, etc., may be called upon to assist us in helping redirect, support, and counsel students with drug and associated problem behaviours. The goal is for these students to change their ways for the sake of their personal well being, the overall health of the school community, and to facilitate and support students in returning safely to school with a view for them to continue and complete their education.

Responsibility for Procedures

Procedures relating to this policy may be changed with the approval of the Superintendent.

Procedures

The principal of a school is responsible for ensuring that the Board's policy statement on drugs will be communicated to students and parents at the beginning of each school year.

The principal of a school is responsible for ensuring that students and parents are advised that lockers may be subject to searches at any time, including searches using drug detection dogs, to ensure compliance with the school district policy on drugs and in the safety interests of students or staff. Students and parents must be advised that students are not obliged to obtain a school locker, but that if a student obtains a

school locker, they do so on the condition that it may be subject to random searches and that it is to be used only for authorized purposes. This policy will also be outlined in each student's handbook. See Appendix 11-100-1: Rules Regarding Student Lockers: Conditions of Use.

A student who is under the influence of, or using drugs, or who is promoting, selling or distributing such a substance during school hours or at a school-sponsored event, will be disciplined in accordance with the District's disciplinary policy.

In addition to the imposition of discipline, the School board may, depending upon the circumstances of the case, report to the police the circumstances of any use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs.

A principal or vice-principal may conduct or authorize a search of a student, personal property or locker in accordance with the procedures set out in this policy or Policy No. 11.110, "Search and Seizure".

The following are examples of what may constitute reasonable grounds in this context:

- information believed to be credible received from a student
- a teacher's or administrator's observation
- any combination of sources of information (including drug detection dogs in respect to lockers used by students) that the principal or vice-principal considers to be credible.

Where the principal, vice-principal or designate intends to conduct a search of a student, the following guidelines will be observed:

- the reason and purpose of the search or interview will be clearly stated to the student(s);
- the search will be conducted in a private area in a respectful manner which recognizes the right to be treated fairly. The use of threats is not permitted.
- searches will be conducted in the presence of a second adult; and
- a reasonable attempt will be made to contact the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) prior to the search.

First Drug Offence

Students found in the possession of or under the influence of drugs the first time, will normally be suspended for up to 5 days during which a Level 2 Hearing (Principal's Board of Review) will take place.

During that time the student will:

- be assigned a case manager who will ensure that the educational assignment is complete, and
- complete an impact statement which outlines the affect of their actions on self, school and family.

As well, the student will be encouraged to successfully complete an intervention program. (e.g. Abbotsford Restorative Justice, Impact or Abbotsford Addictions Services).

Students who are found distributing or selling drugs the first time, will normally be suspended for an indefinite period of time and referred to a Level 3 Hearing (District Board of Review). During this suspension it is expected that the schools will continue to provide an educational program.

As well, the student will be encouraged to successfully complete an intervention program. (e.g. Abbotsford Restorative Justice, Impact or Abbotsford Addictions Services).

Second Drug Offence

Students found in possession of or under the influence of drugs a second time, will normally be suspended for an indefinite period of time and referred to a Level 3 Hearing (District Board of Review). During this suspension it is expected that the case manager will ensure the student is able to continue his/her educational program. The student will normally be placed in another school after completion of the suspension.

The normal conditions for re-admission are:

- evidence that the student can succeed in a school environment without further abuse of drugs, such as proof of enrollment in an approved intervention program
- completion of all assigned work
- completion of an impact statement
- school-based contract by the receiving school.

Third Drug Offence

Students who are found in possession of or under the influence of drugs a third time, will normally be suspended for an indefinite period of time and referred to a Level 3 Hearing (District Board of Review).

In accordance with the *School Act*, the Board may:

- place students under 16 in a home study program for a specified period of time
- refuse “to offer an education program” to those students who are 16 years of age or older

Appendix

11.100-1, Rules Regarding Student Lockers: Conditions of Use

References

Policy No. 9.280, Video Surveillance in Schools

Policy No. 11.110, Search and Seizure

Policy No. 11.120, Suspension, Re-admittance and Refusal to Offer an Educational Program