

## **Alcohol and Illegal Drugs**

### **-POLICY-**

The Board of Education, School District-No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen), opposes involvement by students with alcohol and/or illegal drugs. Students consuming, distributing, or selling alcohol or illegal drugs at school, to and from school, or while on school sponsored activities, shall be dealt with under the regulations accompanying this policy.

Students found trafficking near or at a school or at a School/District event, or where the trafficking is otherwise connected to the school/district, shall be dealt with under the regulation accompanying this policy.

### **-REGULATION-**

#### **1. Alcohol and Drugs**

- 1.1 A student consuming, distributing, possessing, or being under the influence of intoxicating liquor or illegal drugs, other than those medically prescribed for the student's use, on school premises or at any school function shall, on the first offence and subsequent to an investigation by the school administrator, be suspended from school for five (5) days. If the school administrator believes the situation requires a more or less serious consequence, the suspension may be adjusted after consultation with the Superintendent of Schools or designate. The Directed Suspension which would reduce in length if the student seeks counselling and/or volunteers to complete community work. Reasons for any alteration from the five-day standard suspension will be explained in the letter home to parents. All incidents will be reported to the Superintendent of Schools or designate and the Board of Education.
- 1.2 Students who smell of marijuana smoke or who have in their possession smoking paraphernalia shall be disciplined in accordance with 1.1.
- 1.3 If the school administrator believes the situation requires a more or less serious consequence, the suspension may be adjusted after consultation with the Superintendent of Schools or designate.

**2. Trafficking in Drugs or Alcohol**

- 2.1 A student found trafficking in drugs or alcohol at or near a school during regular school hours or at a school/district event, or where the trafficking is otherwise connected to the school and subsequent to an investigation by the school administrator, the Board of Education shall suspend the student for the duration of the school year. The offence may impact a student's education program into the following year.
- 2.2 A student who is found to be in the presence of an individual using or trafficking in drugs or alcohol may be suspended in accordance with 1.1

**3. Suspension Procedures**

Where a student is suspended by the school administrator for a contravention of this policy and regulation, the following procedures will be followed:

- 3.1 The school administrator will endeavour to notify the parents/guardians by telephone immediately.
- 3.2 The school administrator will notify parents/guardians by letter of the suspension and send a copy to the Superintendent of Schools.
- 3.3 The school administrator will endeavour to make arrangements for a student found under the influence of alcohol/drugs to be sent home, providing for the student's personal safety and well-being.
- 3.5 The Superintendent of Schools or designate:
  - 3.5.1 will meet with the school administrator to discuss and decide possible consequences if the school administrator believes the situation requires a suspension longer than five (5) school days. Parents/Guardians will be invited to a meeting with the Superintendent and the administrator to discuss the situation.
  - 3.5.2 may make a decision to suspend in excess of five (5) school days or, if in the Superintendent's opinion the situation is extremely serious, may refer the student to the Board of Education.

- 3.6 If a student is referred to the Board of Education, a recommendation regarding the student will accompany the referral from the Superintendent of Schools or designate. The Board of Education will hear from the student and parent or guardian (in writing or orally) before making a decision to suspend a student or refuse to offer an educational program to a student sixteen (16) years or older.
- 3.7 The Superintendent of Schools or designate will report an allegation of trafficking, or other serious cases of drug use, to the police. Referral to the police does not prevent the Board of Education from taking its own disciplinary action in respect of the conduct.
- 3.8 Counselling services may be offered to students involved in drug and alcohol offences and the provision of counselling may be a requirement as determined by the Superintendent of Schools or Board of Education.
4. Employees are obligated to inform the school principal of any suspicions of drug or alcohol abuse by a student at or near a school, or while on school sponsored activities.
- 4.1 The school principal is to inform students that lockers are the property of School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) and may be inspected at any time.