

**ALCOHOL and ILLICIT SUBSTANCES –
POSSESSION OR CONSUMPTION**

The School District does not permit the possession, exchange or non-medical use of alcohol or other drugs by any students, staff, or volunteers while under the school's jurisdiction, including while participating in field trips.

1. Non-medical possession of or use of drugs shall refer to the possession of or suspected use of any mood altering substances which include, but are not limited to: alcohol, cannabis, illicit drugs as defined under the Criminal Code of Canada, unauthorized prescription drugs and other chemical substances which impair a person's judgment and ability to participate appropriately in the learning environment established by the school.
2. A student suspected to be in possession of or under the influence of any such substances will be interviewed by the School Principal or teacher-in-charge to determine the credibility of these suspicions. If, in the School Principal's judgment, there has been a violation of this procedure, school personnel will attempt to contact parents or other emergency contact people in order to ensure that the student will receive care and attention upon leaving the school premises. A meeting will be arranged to discuss the course of action to be taken in order for the student to resume the educational program which the School District provides.
3. It is expected that use of or possession of drugs or alcohol will result in removal of the student from school for a period of time to be determined by the School Principal. In some cases, and specifically when there has been a repetition of these offences, it is anticipated that the student will be referred to the Superintendent (or designate) for review and recommendations.
4. School Principals are expected to use their best professional judgement in selecting an appropriate action from a range of options. These options include:
 - a. counselling for the student;
 - b. suspension;
 - c. enrollment in an appropriate guidance or counselling program;
 - d. 'in school' suspension;
 - e. referral to the police;
 - f. suspension with referral to the Superintendent (or designate).
5. School Principals will suspend with referral to the Superintendent (or designate) any student who is selling illicit substances or alcohol in school or on school grounds.
6. Suspensions or expulsions may be appealed to the Board within five days of the notice of a suspension or expulsion.

The prohibition against the possession, exchange, or non-medicinal use of alcohol or other drugs applies to staff and volunteers on all school events, including field trips.