

**PROCEDURE**

**Substance Use by Students**

## Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to create and maintain a safe and healthy school environment in schools and all school sponsored activities in or outside of the KPDSB's jurisdiction. The use of alcohol and other drugs (i.e. recreational marijuana, tobacco and vaping products, illicit drugs, inhalants, non-authorized prescription drugs) will not be tolerated and are detrimental to education, injurious to the moral tone of the school, and harmful to the health and well-being of students.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) recognizes that interventions and supports may be critical for students, parents, and families. Community partnerships may be leveraged to ensure that interventions and supports are tailored to the circumstances of the student(s) involved.

## Definitions

- "Vaping" means inhaling or exhaling vapour from an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or holding an activated e-cigarette, whether or not the vapour contains nicotine.
- "smoking" means smoking (inhaling and exhaling) or holding lighted tobacco or cannabis (medical or recreational)

For the purpose of this procedure, the term "**Substance**" is used to include the following:

- "Narcotic" as defined in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, or successor legislation;
- "Restricted drug" as defined in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, or successor legislation;
- Any drug which is a "controlled drug" as defined in the Controlled Substances Act, or successor legislation. However, any controlled drug which is in the possession of an individual as a result of a "prescription" for that individual as defined in the Controlled Drug and Substances Act, or successor legislation, and for a valid medical reason shall be deemed not to be a "substance";

### Cross References

Cannabis Control Act, 2017  
Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017  
Policies  
319, Substance Use by Students  
321, Safe and Supportive Schools  
329, Progressive Discipline and Promoting a Positive School Climate  
401, School-Student Activities Outside the Classroom  
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- Cannabis
- Any mixture containing “liquor” as defined by the Liquor License Act, R.S.O., or successor legislation;
- Any “intoxicating inhalants”.

## **Guidelines**

### 1. Prevention Education

Education is an essential component of prevention. Principals shall ensure that educational programs regarding the use of tobacco and substances are provided in all schools according to Ministry of Education Guidelines and Policies.

A summary of KPDSB Policy 319 Substance Use by Students shall be available to students, parents/guardians/caregivers in the school handbook.

### 2. Discipline Procedures

A Student is subject to disciplinary action, as per KPDSB Policy 321 Safe and Supportive Schools and Policy 329 Progressive Discipline and Promoting a Positive School Climate, when, while on school property or on a school sponsored activity, is found to be:

- In possession of, or suspected to be under the influence of, any substance as defined in this procedure;
- Providing/trafficking substance(s);
- In possession of, providing or trafficking substance use paraphernalia.

The Principal, or Designate, supporting intoxicated students, will:

- a) Make a judgment as to whether the student needs emergency assistance;
- b) Isolate, if possible, and ensure the safety of the student;
- c) Ascertain the nature of the problem, and make the person aware of the procedures to be followed as outlined in the KPDSB Substance Use by Students procedure;

- d) Where the student is under the age of eighteen (18), notify parents/guardians/caregivers as soon as possible, unless, in the opinion of the Principal, doing so would put the student at risk of harm from parents/guardians/caregivers of the student, such that the notification is not in the student's best interests. See KPDSB Policies 321 Safe and Supportive Schools and 329 Progressive Discipline and Promoting a Positive School Climate;
- e) Arrange for a safe departure of the student(s) from school property or activity to the parents/guardians/caregivers, hospital, or police;
- f) The principal or designate, in the presence of a staff member, may conduct a search of the student's locker and personal effects;
- g) Arrange for a follow-up meeting with the parents/guardians/caregivers and student to inform them of supports and counselling services, and to discuss appropriate disciplinary action;
- h) Narcotics, restricted drugs and controlled drugs, shall be secured, and the police department shall be consulted as soon as possible.

In addition, the Principal may remove a student from participation in co-curricular activities.

Any student, regardless of age, who enters a premise requiring proof of age of majority or makes a purchase requiring proof of age of majority while on a school sanctioned activity is subject to disciplinary action under this section.

### 3. Tobacco and Vaping

- a) A student, regardless of age, found to be using, providing, or selling tobacco or vaping products while on school property or on a school sponsored activity is subject to disciplinary action, as per the KPDSB Policy 321 Safe and Supportive Schools and Policy 329 Progressive Discipline and Promoting a Positive School Climate.
- b) In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, exceptions are made for the use of tobacco for traditional Indigenous cultural or spiritual purposes.

4. Cooperation with Law Enforcement Officers

In all matters pertaining to the illegal use and possession of substances, the Principal, or Designate, shall cooperate with law enforcement officers, according to the Police and School Board Response Protocol.

5. Counselling and Rehabilitation

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board believes that the provision of counselling and rehabilitative programs will benefit those in need. Students and parents/guardians/caregivers are encouraged to make use of school resources and personnel. In addition, KPDSB may partner with appropriate community agencies including addiction service providers in the referral to counselling and rehabilitative programs for students when necessary.