

**PROCEDURE**

**Substance Use by Students**

## Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board that the use of designated substances by students will not be tolerated in order that schools can create and maintain a safe and healthy environment in schools and all school-sanctioned activities.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board will cooperate with students, parents, and others, including addiction service providers through prevention education, discipline procedures and assistance for students with problems regarding substance use and abuse.

## Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the term “Substance” is used to include the following:

- a) **Narcotic** as defined in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, or successor legislation;
- b) **Restricted drug** as defined in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, or successor legislation;
- c) Any drug which is a controlled drug as defined in the *Controlled Drugs and 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 to not be a “substance”;
- d) Any mixture containing liquor as defined in the *Liquor License Act, R.S.O.*, or successor legislation;
- e) tobacco; and
- f) any intoxicating inhalants.

## Guidelines

### A. Prevention Education

1. Principals shall ensure that educational programs regarding use of “substances” are provided in all schools according to Ontario Physical Ed. Curriculum.

A summary of Policy #319 shall be included in a school handbook and distributed annually to students and parents.

### B. Discipline Procedures

1. A student found in possession or apparently under the influence of any “substance” to which this Part applies while on school property or on a school sanctioned activity is subject to disciplinary action as per the Board’s Suspension and Expulsion Policies.

2. Drugs

a) This Part applies to those “substances” which are:

- i) “Narcotics” as defined in Section 2 of the *Controlled Drug and Substances*, or successor legislation;
- ii) “Restricted drugs” as defined in the *Controlled Drug and Substances Act*, or successor legislation;
- iii) Any drug which is a “controlled drug” as defined in the *Controlled Drug and 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”.

- b) The principal or designate acting under Section B 1. shall:
- i) Make a judgment as to whether the student needs emergency assistance;
  - ii) Isolate, if possible, and detain the student if necessary, in order to ascertain the nature of the problem, and make the person aware of the procedures to be followed as outlined in Board policy.
  - iii) Where the student is under the age of 18, notify parents or guardians as soon as possible unless in the opinion of the principal doing so would put the student at risk of harm from a parent or guardian of the student, such that the notification is not in the student's best interests. See Policy 328 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour for procedures.
- c) Any suspected "substance" to which this Part applies found shall be left where found and secured in some manner, and the police department shall be consulted as soon as possible. If the suspected "substance" cannot be secured in some manner in its existing location, the employee shall take possession of it for the purpose of securing it prior to contacting the police department.
- d) Any student, regardless of age, who attends school on a given day and who subsequently consumes a "substance" and returns to school the same school day, is subject to disciplinary action.
- e) The principal shall suspend a student for a maximum period of 20 school days if he or she believes that the student has engaged in trafficking in illegal drugs, or in possession of illegal drugs for the purposes of trafficking.
- f) In addition, the principal may remove a student from participation in co-curricular activities for student action taken under the policy.

3. Alcohol and Inhalants

- a) This Part applies to any “substance” which is:
  - i) any mixture containing “liquor” as defined in the *Liquor License Act, R.S.O.* , or successor legislation; and
  - ii) any intoxicating inhalants.
- b) Any student, regardless of age, who attends school on a given day and who subsequently consumes a “substance” and returns to school the same school day, is subject to disciplinary action.
- c) Any student under the jurisdiction of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board who violates b) above, in a Board school other than the student’s own school, is subject to disciplinary action by the principal of the student’s school upon notification by the school where the infraction occurred.
- d) A student found to be providing alcohol to minors is subject to disciplinary action as per the Board’s Suspension and Expulsion Policies.
- e) Any student, regardless of age, who enters a premise requiring proof of age of majority while on a school-sanctioned activity is subject to disciplinary action under this section.
- f) The principal may remove a student from participation in co-curricular activities for student actions taken under this policy.

4. Tobacco

- a) A student regardless of age, found to be using tobacco in any area designated a “smoke free environment” by the principal or designate is subject to disciplinary action.
- b) A student under the age of 16 will be subject to disciplinary action if he/she uses tobacco or is found to be in possession of tobacco products.
- c) The principal may suspend the student for an appropriate period of time for any infraction under this Part with the approval of the Director of Education or designate.

5. Cooperation with Law Enforcement Officers

In all matters pertaining to the illegal use of “substances”, the principal or designate shall cooperate with law enforcement officers, according to negotiated police/school protocol.

C. Counselling and Rehabilitation

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board believes that the provision of counselling and rehabilitative programs will benefit those in need. The Board will partner with appropriate community agencies including addiction service providers in the referral to counselling and rehabilitative programs for students who use “substances”.