

POLICY: STUDENT DRUG EDUCATION # 1007

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APPROVAL/REVISION EFFECTIVE REVIEW
DATE: November 5, 2018 DATE: November 6, 2018 DATE: November 5, 2023

CROSS REFERENCE: Policy 703: Code of Student Behaviour
Policy 710: Student Relations and Discipline
Policy 713: Search and Seizure
Policy 714: Access to Schools for Investigative Purposes by Law
Enforcement Agencies
PPM 128: The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct
PPM 144: Bullying Prevention and Intervention
PPM 145: Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour
Cannabis Act

A: **POLICY**

1. 1.1 In the belief that spiritual growth and a healthy Christian lifestyle are essential for the empowerment of our youth, and in order to continue to develop life-long strategies which will counteract the societal dilemma of drug/use abuse, the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board is committed to the development and implementation of a policy which reflects the mission statement, the responsibility shared by the home, the school, the Catholic Church, and the community at large, and allows each student to " have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10).
- 1.2 In accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines, it is the aim of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board to discourage and to reduce drug use/abuse by students through the development and implementation of a preventative curriculum, early intervention procedures, and when required, disciplinary action.
- 1.3 It is the policy of the Board to prohibit the possession and use/abuse of drugs by its students while on Board property or at Board sponsored events.

B: **GUIDELINES**

2. **Definitions**

The following definitions are derived from the Addiction Research Foundation:

- 2.1 **Drug** refers to any mind altering substance which has a direct effect on mood, perception and level of consciousness. This would include, but not be limited to, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, steroids, prescription drugs, illicit drugs and inhalants.
- 2.2 **Illicit Drugs** refer to substances that are unlawful, prohibited and are not permitted to be in the possession of the general public. (Black's Law Dictionary/The Canadian Law Dictionary).
- 2.3 **Abuse** refers to the misuse of a drug, which has a detrimental effect on the user and those around him or her.
- 2.4 **Trafficking/Peddling** includes the manufacturing, managing, sending, transporting, distributing, and/or selling of a drug, as well as the offer to do so.

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- 2.5 **Intervention** refers to any act which interrupts or interferes with a person's inappropriate behaviour. Intervention is designed to help this individual face reality and to make a conscious effort toward positive changes in the behaviour in question.
- 2.6 **Counselling/Referral** refers to a form of intervention which provides information, referral, support and sometimes confrontation to help an individual to gain control of his/her life. Counselling must not be perceived as disciplinary action. The role of "counsellor" is not one of a professional therapist.
- 2.7 **Aftercare** refers to support services provided for students returning from treatment.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The Director of Education, through the Superintendents, shall oversee the development, implementation and review of the Student Drug Education Policy.
- 3.2 The principals shall administer this policy in their school communities. The policy shall be communicated annually to all staff, students and parents/guardians in their respective schools.
- 3.3 This policy shall apply to all students registered with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board.
- 3.4 Circumstances that require search and seizure are governed by Policy 713.
- 3.5 Circumstances that may require police assistance are governed by Policy 714.

4. Curriculum Development

- 4.1 The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board shall continue to promote, through the concept of Religious Education and Family Life across the curriculum, a healthy Christian lifestyle for its students.
- 4.2 The Board shall establish formal curriculum programs, consistent with the Ministry of Education guidelines, which will be developed by Board personnel.

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- 4.3 The curriculum will extend from the formative years through to the specialization years. At the elementary and secondary level, this curriculum will be cumulative in nature.
- 4.4 The curriculum will be developed for implementation in Religious Education and Family Life, Physical and Health Education, and other related subject areas and courses of study.
- 4.5 The drug education curriculum will be linked to the developmental stages of students and cross-referenced with established patterns of student drug use/abuse so that lessons can be appropriately targeted and delivered.
- 4.6 The Board shall seek input, validation and support from the teachers, students, parents, Church and community agencies in relation to student drug education.
- 4.7 The Board shall provide as required, in-servicing to teachers in relation to drug education, which will be determined by the superintendents and principals.

5. Early Intervention

- 5.1 Consistent with the Board's concern for the health, social and personal well-being of students, it shall establish early intervention procedures to reduce, as much as possible, drug use/abuse and its associated problems.
- 5.2 The principal shall be provided with in-service in early intervention procedures. At the discretion of the superintendent, in consultation with the principal, additional teaching staff may receive this in-service.
- 5.3 All staff shall receive an orientation to the early intervention procedures.
- 5.4 Confidentiality, relative to the appropriate Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act shall be maintained.
- 5.5 The Board, through the school, shall communicate the early intervention procedures to all students and parents (e.g. inclusion in Student Handbook).
- 5.6 The components of the Early Intervention procedures shall include:
 - 5.6.1 Identification.

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- 5.6.2 Assessment.
- 5.6.3 Counselling/Referral.
- 5.6.4 Aftercare.

5.7 Identification

All staff shall be responsible for informing the school principal of any student they find using/abusing drugs or if they notice behaviour or circumstances which may be related to use/abuse. Identification can also include:

- 5.7.1 Students voluntarily requesting assistance; and/or
- 5.7.2 Parents/guardians of a student under the age of eighteen (18) years requesting assistance; and/or
- 5.7.3 Identifying students as a result of disciplinary action because of drug use/abuse on Board property or at a Board sponsored event. In this case, staff shall report the incident to the principal by submitting a completed copy of the "Safe and Accepting Schools Incident Reporting Form."

5.8 Assessment

Once identified, the principal shall conduct a preliminary interview with the student and recommend a course of action.

5.9 Counselling/Referral

The principal and the student, and the parent/guardian as appropriate, shall determine the way in which progress will be made:

- 5.9.1 Should the nature of the student's problem warrant, the principal, in consultation with the student and with the parent/guardian in the case of a student under the age of eighteen (18) years, may refer the student to an appropriate community agency for professional assistance.

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5.9.2 If the intervention assistance is the result of disciplinary action, the standard disciplinary procedures outlined in Section 6 of this policy shall be incorporated into the intervention procedures.

5.9.3 As outlined in PPM 145, schools and school boards must provide supports for all students who are affected by serious student incidents and all inappropriate behaviour, and for those who engage in these types of incidents, to assist them in developing healthy relationships, making choices that support continuing their learning, and achieving success. Supports may be provided by employees of the board, through board programs and resource personnel, or through community-based service providers, including social service agencies and mental health services.

5.10 Aftercare

5.10.1 The school shall maintain regular contact with the student, and/or parent/guardian to monitor progress and assist with difficulties, based on the course of intervention taken.

5.10.2 The school shall also cooperate with the community agency in its rehabilitation program for the student.

6. Disciplinary Action

6.1 The goal of disciplinary action is to:

6.1.1 Protect the health and safety of all students and those around the students.

6.1.2 Protect the property of the Board.

6.2 Where events are not held on Board property, Board Policy will still apply.

6.3 The Board's ability to deter the use/abuse of drugs is limited by lawful possession of certain substances (i.e. tobacco, cannabis, glue) and/or prescribed use of certain drugs (i.e. medical prescriptions).

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6.4 Standard Disciplinary Procedures

Each school shall establish, in conjunction with Policy #703 and Policy #710 standard disciplinary procedures to deal with drug-related infractions. The standard disciplinary procedures should focus on the fact of the infraction, rather than on the specific offending drug.

6.5 Standard Disciplinary Procedures shall address:

- 6.5.1 First and subsequent infractions.
- 6.5.2 Further disciplinary action.

6.6 First and Subsequent Infractions

- 6.6.1 Disciplinary action dealing with a student's first and subsequent infractions shall include, at the discretion of the principal:
 - 6.6.1.1 confiscating the drug for disposal;
 - 6.6.1.2 informing the parent/guardian; and
 - 6.6.1.3 Early Intervention Procedures as outlined in Section 5.
- 6.6.2 All illicit drugs will be turned over to the police immediately.
- 6.6.3 Confiscated material, other than illicit drugs, that is to be destroyed will be done as soon as possible in the presence of the principal or designate and at least one other employee.
- 6.6.4 Further disciplinary action dealing with a student's subsequent infractions shall include, at the discretion of the principal, suspending the student up to a maximum period allowed by the Board.

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6.7 Further Disciplinary Action

6.7.1 Any further disciplinary action will be consistent within the school's Code of Conduct and Board Policy 710: Student Relations and Discipline.

6.7.2 In taking further disciplinary action, the principal must use the concept of Progressive Discipline.