

School District #62 (Sooke)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS – POSSESSION, EXCHANGE AND NON-MEDICAL USE	No.: C-314
	Effective: Feb. 26/91 Revised: May 23/95

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

1. Definitions

Intoxicant - illicit or non-medical drugs, alcohol, or other inebriating substances including misused prescription drugs.

Under the influence of - indicating evidence of having consumed an intoxicant or exhibiting a degree of intoxication while under school jurisdiction.

In possession - having an intoxicant on his/her person or elsewhere under his/her control (e.g. in a locker, or a vehicle) while under school jurisdiction.

- 1.1 A breach of this policy shall normally result in a period of suspension from school; however, in keeping with the Board's primary goal of education, the length of the suspension will be determined, in part, through reference to the student's willingness to enrol in, and follow through with, a program of substance abuse education and/or counselling. Community service may also be considered in conjunction with suspension. All incidents involving alcohol or other drugs shall be reported to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student and may be reported to the police.
- 1.2 The administrative officer(s) of each school shall advise all staff that they have a responsibility for:
 - a. the immediate reporting to a school administrative officer of any student who is suspected of being in possession of, or having consumed, an intoxicant while under school jurisdiction;
 - b. identifying students who, as a result of irregular behaviour patterns and/or declining personal performance over a reasonable period of time, are suspected abusers of intoxicants. Such identified students should be brought to the attention of the school-based team.

**2. SOME PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE/POSSESSION/EXCHANGE INCIDENTS**

It is acknowledged that every case has its own peculiarities; however, the following steps provide a framework within which to deal with substance abuse/possession/exchange incidents.

2.1 Possession and/or Use of Intoxicant - First Offence

If a student is found in possession or under the apparent influence of an intoxicant, the staff member shall be responsible for immediately reporting the incident to an administrative officer who shall:

- a. make a judgement as to whether the student needs emergency assistance and advise the parent/guardian of the situation.
- b. detain the student, if emergency assistance is not indicated, to ascertain the nature of the problem and make the student aware of the procedures to be followed as outlined in the Board policy.
- c. if considered appropriate, inform the police of the problem.
- d. whether or not the police are involved but where a violation has occurred, the administrative officer shall consider suspension of the student for a period of three to ten school days. Only in exceptional circumstances would the suspension be fewer than three school days. The length of suspension should be determined in light of the student's/family's willingness to be involved in a community-based substance abuse education/counselling program. Community service may also be a factor considered in setting the length of suspension.

3. Possession and/or Use of Intoxicant - Second and Subsequent Offences

A second occurrence of intoxicant possession or use shall normally be referred to the District Discipline Committee in conjunction with a suspension of indefinite length.

4. Selling, Supplying, or Making Available Intoxicants

Because the health and safety of all students is a prime concern of the Board of Trustees, selling, supplying, or making available intoxicants is deemed to be a very serious breach of this policy.

- 4.1 Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student is in possession of a substance purported to be an intoxicant for the purposes of selling, supplying, or making available while under the jurisdiction of the school, the principal should normally suspend the student indefinitely, inform the parents, refer the student to the District Discipline Committee and report the incident to the police and to the Superintendent of Schools. The District Discipline Committee will convene at its earliest convenience.
- 4.2 If the offender is charged with trafficking, either on school property or when under the jurisdiction of the school, the Discipline Committee will consult with the Crown Prosecutor's office prior to determining the student's educational placement, bearing in mind the Board's concern with the health and safety of all students.

5. When any intoxicant comes under the control of an administrator in dealing with an incident covered by this policy, the police may be contacted to determine the disposal of the seized intoxicant.
6. All disposal of seized intoxicants should be witnessed.

7. Police Searches in Middle and Secondary Schools

Because the Board strongly believes that schools should be "drug free zones", the Board authorizes the periodic searching of middle schools and secondary schools for drugs by police and trained dogs. These searches are more concerned with deterrence than apprehension.

- 7.1 At least once annually at the start of the school year, school principals will inform parents/guardians in writing that school lockers are the property of the school district and, as such, are subject to search.
- 7.2 Parents/guardians will be informed at the start of each year that, as part of a deterrence program and to create a drug free zone at our schools, there will be periodic searches for drugs at the school by police and trained dogs.
- 7.3 These searches will normally take place outside of regular school hours and must have a school administrator accompanying the police in their search.
- 7.4 Where the trained dogs indicate that a locker likely contains drugs, the school administrator will note the locker number and, on the next school day, will ask the student to whom that locker is assigned to open the locker for a search. The school administrator will ensure there is a second school district employee present as a witness. Should the student to whom the locker is assigned not be present, then the school administrator, in the presence of another school district employee as a witness, will open and search the locker.
- 7.5 If drugs (or alcohol) are found in the locker, the school will follow the procedures set out earlier in this Regulation regarding consequences for the student(s) concerned. In accordance with this Regulation, such consequences may involve a report of the incident to the police for their action independent of such consequences as may flow from school district action.
- 7.6 It will be normal practice following each search by the police and trained dogs for a school/RCMP press release to inform the community.