

## **STUDENT USE OF ALCOHOL, RESTRICTED / ILLICIT DRUGS and WEAPONS**

### **Background**

The Division is committed to providing an educational environment that is safe, secure, healthy and peaceful. The use of alcohol and the misuse of drugs and intoxicants have a negative effect on a student's capacity to learn. In addition, it can also have a negative impact on the overall school climate.

The possession and/or use of alcohol and Restricted and Illicit drugs, weapons in schools, on school property, or during school-related activities is prohibited.

### **Definition**

**Illicit Drug** – means any drug or substance capable of causing intoxication or impairment that is not legally obtainable and whose use, sale, possession, purchase or transfer is restricted or prohibited by law.

**Restricted Drugs** – means any drug or substance capable of causing intoxication or impairment which can only be obtained with a valid prescription or medical document, and those which are legally obtainable for recreational use and whose sale, purchase, possession or transfer are restricted by law. For the purposes of this Administrative Procedure, Restricted Drugs do not include a drug for which the student has a valid prescription, or medical document, as contemplated by the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulation, that the student is using in accordance with the medical practitioner's directions.

### **Procedures**

1. Principals shall ensure that education programs include components designed to increase students' knowledge of the facts relating to Restricted and Illicit Drugs and alcohol.
2. Student use of the following on school premises, vehicles and school-related activities is prohibited:
  - 2.1. Alcohol,
  - 2.2. Illicit or restricted drugs;
  - 2.3. Smoking, e-cigarettes; vaping products;

- 2.4. Weapons, which are defined as objects designed or intended to threaten or intimidate or inflict bodily harm and includes firearms.
3. Any student suspected of possessing or selling any of the prohibited substances or objects shall be reported immediately to the Principal.
4. The Principal's primary concern shall be for the safety of all students and staff in the school. The Principal shall secure the safety of the students and staff and contact emergency personnel as soon as reasonably possible.
5. If a student is undergoing a reaction to alcohol or a drug, the Principal is to seek medical assistance and notify the parents of the student.
6. If a student is suspected of being in possession of prohibited substances such as alcohol, illicit / restricted drugs, the Principal may contact the police.
  - 6.1. The Principal shall maintain a complete record of the proceedings and inform the Superintendent as soon as possible.
7. If a student is found to be in possession of a weapon (including replicas), the community Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) protocol will be activated.
  - 7.1. The Principal shall initiate the VTRA process by contacting a VTRA-trained School Resource Officer (RCMP) and the school division VTRA Lead.
8. Any victim of an infraction of this administrative procedure may make direct contact with the police.
9. If the Principal believes that the actions of a student with regard to the possession of prohibited substances and objects will endanger the health and safety of students and staff, the Principal may suspend the student in accordance with Board policy and Division administrative procedures.
10. The Board may expel a student that contravenes the prohibition of restricted substances and weapons in accordance with Board policy and Division administrative procedures.
11. Subsequent to meeting the student's immediate needs (medical attention, legal guidance, parental contact), remedial assistance is to be sought for the student by the family and the counsellor. The following agencies could be considered for help:
  - 11.1. Alberta Health Services: Addiction and Mental Health;
  - 11.2. Alberta Child and Family Services;

- 11.3. Alberta Mental Health;
- 11.4. Alcoholics Anonymous;
- 11.5. Catholic Social Services.

Reference: *Education Act*, SA 2012, c E-0.3, ss. 31, 32, 33, 53, 196, 197, 222  
Gaming and Liquor Act  
Elk Island VTRA Protocol  
Controlled Drugs and Substances Act  
Criminal Code  
Narcotics Act  
Food and Drug Act  
Health Canada  
Elk Island Catholic Schools' Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol