



## SUBSTANCE FREE SCHOOLS POLICY

DM Approval:

Effective Date: September 1, 2018

### GENERAL INFORMATION

One of the objectives of the Yukon education system is to encourage the physical development and personal health and fitness of students.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for dealing with situations of substance use occurring at Yukon schools and in school communities.

### DEFINITIONS

'Parent' means the biological parents, the adoptive parents by custom or otherwise, the persons legally entitled to custody, or the persons who usually have care and control of the child.

'School administrator' includes the school administrator's designate.

'Substance' includes alcohol, cannabis and any substances which are prohibited under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, including anything which contains such a substance.

### POLICY STATEMENT

The Department of Education supports:

1. Substance free school environments that provide the best possible learning environments.
2. Collaboration among schools, parents, Yukon First Nations, School Councils and other community members to create and maintain safe and healthy schools.
3. Efforts to prevent and intervene in situations of substance use among students, including the development and delivery of educational resources, the promotion of prevention programs, and the implementation of school-based and community-

based efforts aimed at supporting students who are at risk of or are using substances.

4. The prohibition of the use of substances on school premises or during school-authorized trips or activities. Any violation of this prohibition will result in disciplinary action and, if necessary, notification of the police.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### General

School staff who suspect that a student is under the influence of a substance at school must report the situation immediately to the school administrator.

If a student is using a substance on school grounds or during school-related activities, school staff must determine whether the student requires immediate medical or other attention, and also whether there is a risk to other students or school property.

When a student is placing themselves or others at risk because of habitual substance use on school grounds or during school-related activities, school staff shall collaborate with the student's parents to develop an intervention and support plan which, taking into account the age and circumstances of the student, may include one or more of the following:

- an interview with the student to determine the extent of the substance use;
- referral to external agencies for further assessment, counselling and support; and
- recommending community support services to the student and their parents.

### School Administrator

When there is reason to believe that a student is or has been using a substance on school grounds or during school-related activities, the school administrator shall interview the student and determine the appropriate course of action in accordance with any rules and policies developed by the School Council and the school administration for the school.

The student will be asked to produce any substance in their possession or in their locker. The school administrator will also will also notify the student's parents.

If necessary and in the presence of another staff member, the school administrator may conduct a search of the student and their property for a substance. The school administrator must use the most reasonable, least intrusive method possible when conducting such a search.

In accordance with the 'School Locker Use and Locker Searches Policy', where reasonable grounds exist the student's locker may also be searched for substances.

The school administrator may also notify the R.C.M.P. and seek their assistance.

If school staff determine that a substance is the cause of a student's unacceptable behavior, the school administrator will determine the appropriate action. This may include counselling by qualified school staff or outside agencies, and/or disciplinary action.

If it is determined that a student is involved in trafficking, selling or otherwise distributing substances at school, notification of the R.C.M.P. must be considered.

## **APPLICATION**

This policy applies to all Yukon schools.

## **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

In situations where the individual circumstances of a case are such that the provisions of this policy cannot be applied or to do so would result in an unfair or an unintended result, the decision may be based on the individual merits and justice of the situation. Such a decision will be considered for that specific case only and will not be precedent setting.

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This policy is effective September 1, 2018.

## **LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY REFERENCES**

Education Act, ss. 4 (a) (vi)  
Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

## **HISTORY**

Substance Abuse Policy, effective November 30, 2004; amended effective September 1, 2018.