

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

POLICY 606.1

Effective Date, July 9, 2012

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

The Board of Education believes in providing students with a learning environment conducive to maximizing their intellectual, physical, social and emotional development. The presence of alcohol and other drugs interferes with that learning environment.

Students affected by alcohol and other drugs may harm themselves and negatively impact others and the learning environment. The Board is committed to preserving the health and safety of all students.

The Board is concerned with the disruption of the learning environment for all students and recognizes that students, staff and others affected by such disruption must be protected.

The Board accepts the concept of substance use as treatable and recognizes that this problem in schools cannot be solved solely by suspending those students who are involved. The Board will strive to maintain a balance between compassion and aid for students seeking help for substance use problems and the protection of the learning environment.

The Board expects students to be completely free of alcohol and other drugs while under the jurisdiction of the District. For the purpose of this policy, jurisdiction of the District includes extra-curricular activities sponsored by the school and extra-curricular activities which take place at a school other than the school attended by the student, including activities outside of the geographic location of the District.

For the purposes of this policy, 'using' includes having used or consumed alcohol or other drugs at any time during any day when the student is or will be under the jurisdiction of the District as set out above. Any student using, possessing or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs while under the jurisdiction of the District will be suspended by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, principal or vice-principal in accordance with the provisions of Policy 600.2.

REGULATIONS

1. Students are expected to be free of alcohol and other drugs. Students found to be using, under the influence and/or in possession of alcohol or other drugs or exhibiting physical characteristics that indicate recent use will be subject to the following consequences:
 - a) First Offence
 - i) For incidental or minor involvement, the student will be suspended for up to five school days. For cases other than those of minor or incidental involvement, the principal or vice-principal will suspend the student for a

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period of time determined by the principal or vice-principal in consultation with the Superintendent or designate.

- ii) The principal or vice-principal, in consultation with the Superintendent or designate, may recommend counseling through school or appropriate community services. The suspension may be reduced by the principal or vice-principal after consideration of the reports provided as a result of the counseling.

b) Subsequent Offence

In addition to any consequences which may be imposed pursuant to a) First Offence, as set out above, the principal or vice-principal will suspend the student and refer the student to the Superintendent for a disciplinary hearing in accordance with Policy 600.2.

2. For greater certainty in enforcing these Regulations, school staff may conduct breathalyzer tests to confirm whether a student has used alcohol, as follows:

- a) Breathalyzer tests shall be conducted by school staff who have been properly trained to do so.
- b) School staff shall have reasonable suspicion that a student has used alcohol, for example due to a student's odour or behaviour, or information provided to the administrator by other students.
- c) School staff may conduct breathalyzer tests during normal school hours and extra-curricular activities.
- d) If a student refuses to take the breathalyzer test, school staff may rely on such refusal to conclude that a student has been using alcohol, and the student shall then be subject to the consequences outlined in this Regulation.

3. Students found to be involved in the selling and/or supplying of alcohol or other drugs will be subject to the following consequences:

- a) The student will be suspended and referred to the Superintendent's office for a disciplinary hearing.
- b) The student will be issued notice to immediately leave the school in which the student is registered and will be directed that the student is not to enter any school or other property owned by the District, with the intention that this direction will be consistent with *Section 177* of the *School Act*, such that if the student does enter on any lands or premises owned by the District, that student will be committing an offence contrary to *Section 177* of the *School Act*; this direction will be in effect from the date of commencement of the suspension and will

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continue until such time as the Superintendent or designate amends or sets aside the direction.

3. Students should be aware that the principal or vice-principal will consult with the RCMP. The principal or vice-principal or any teacher who finds illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia has been authorized to confiscate those illegal drugs or paraphernalia on behalf of the school and will turn those over to the RCMP together with a report as to the source of the drugs and/or drug paraphernalia.