

AP 1500: Illegal Use of Drugs and Alcohol

The District believes that students should maximize their intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development within their learning environment and the presence of alcohol and other drugs interferes with that. The District 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 District 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 District expects students to be completely free of alcohol and other drugs while under the jurisdiction of the District including extracurricular activities sponsored by the school and extracurricular activities that take place at a school other than the school attended by the student, including activities outside of the geographic location of the District.

In applying this procedure, the principal or designate has discretion to take into account the age of the student and the factors and issues that may be affecting the student who is under the influence, or appears to be under the influence, or in the possession of drugs and/or alcohol while in attendance or on route to, or from, school or at any school sponsored activity.

Procedures

The following steps will apply to students who are under the influence, or appear to be under the influence, or in the illegal possession of drugs or alcohol while in attendance or on route to school or at any school sponsored activity:

1. First Offense:

- 1.1 The principal or designate will meet with the student and determine to the best of their ability whether the student is under the influence of an illegal substance or alcohol.
- 1.2 The principal or designate must inform the parents/guardians as soon as practicable that the student appears to be under the influence or in possession of an illegal substance and must be picked up at school. If the parents cannot be reached or are unable to pick up the student, the student will be isolated pending a decision by the parents as to transportation home. The student will receive medical services if deemed necessary.
- 1.3 The parents/guardians will be asked to meet as soon as practicable at a time determined by the principal or designate, to develop a plan of action to assist the student and to return the student to school as soon as possible.

- 1.4 The student may be suspended from school until such time as the meeting can be arranged with parents/guardians to develop a plan of action. The plan of action may include some form of restitution, involvement with an outside agency, or some plan other than suspension. If the student is suspended, an educational program must be provided to the student.
- 1.5 If the student is in possession of what appears to be an illegal substance, the RCMP or Nelson City Police may be notified.
- 1.6 The student will return to school when the plan is agreed to.
2. Subsequent offenses:
 - 2.1 The principal or designate will meet with the student and determine to the best of their ability whether the student is under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.
 - 2.2 The principal or designate must inform the parents/guardians as soon as practicable that the student appears to be, in contravention of applicable laws, under the influence or in possession of drugs or alcohol and must be picked up at school. If the parents cannot be reached or are unable to pick up the student, the student will be isolated pending a decision by the parents as to transportation home.
 - 2.3 The student will be suspended:
 - 2.3.1 Until such a time a meeting can be arranged with the parents/guardians and student to develop some form of drug and alcohol intervention, or
 - 2.3.2 Until the student attends a meeting with a District Committee coordinated by the Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation. The District Committee will meet as soon as possible to determine the appropriate actions which may include some form of drug and alcohol intervention.
 - 2.4 An educational program must be provided to the student during the suspension.
 - 2.5 If the student is in possession of what appears to be an illegal substance, the RCMP or Nelson City Police may be notified.
3. Trafficking or Selling Drugs or Alcohol - The following steps will apply to students who are trafficking or selling drugs and/or alcohol at any time during school hours, including traveling to and from school, or in attendance or participation at any school function:
 - 3.1. The RCMP or Nelson City Police, as appropriate, will be consulted.

- 3.2. The principal or designate must inform the parents/guardians that the student has been caught trafficking drugs or alcohol and the parents/guardians will be requested to pick up the student at school. If the parents cannot be reached or are unable to pick up the student, the student will be isolated pending a decision as to transportation home.
- 3.3. The student will be suspended indefinitely and will be referred to a District Committee coordinated by the Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation.
- 3.4. During the period of suspension, an education program will be provided. If the student is 19 years of age or older, no program will be provided by the Board.
- 3.5. The District Committee will review the circumstances of the infraction and apply the consequences.
4. At any time when a student is suspended under this procedure, the parents/guardians must be informed in writing giving the details of the incident, the steps in the process and the possible consequences for the student's action.
5. A copy of the Appeal By-Law will be attached to the written decision by the District Committee.