

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Student Section

Policy #604.0

In this policy substance refers to prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, illicit drugs, tobacco and alcohol.

It is the policy of the York Region District School Board that Substance Use and Abuse Education be approached from three perspectives; A Preventive Approach, Counselling Intervention and Discipline and Community Support Agencies. Expectations are as follows:

A Preventive Approach

- the culture of the school shall promote a healthy lifestyle; this aspect of the school culture will be assessed and developed through the School Plan for Continuous Improvement;
- the substance use and abuse curriculum from grades 1 – 10 will be based upon the expectations of The Ontario Curriculum;
- the substance use and abuse curriculum for grades 11 and 12 will be based upon needs identified in the School Plan for Continuous Improvement;
- in cases in which special needs or issues related to substance use/abuse arise, individual, special class, large group or school programs shall be initiated by school staff;

Counselling Intervention and Discipline

- for students with substance use/abuse issues principals of schools shall have a clearly identified process for providing individual assistance and short-term counselling and for referring students to guidance counsellors, relevant board staff (e.g., attendance counsellors, school psychologists or psychological associates, etc.) or community agencies;
- schools shall provide parents and students with information about programs available to assist students and their families with substance use/abuse issues through school communications;
- in cases in which a student requires more than short-term counselling, the principal shall confer with parents, and may arrange a case conference for collaborative problem solving and the development of plans to help the student. A case conference shall include a minimum of three of the following; the principal, guidance

counsellor, special education teacher, ESL/ESD teacher, classroom teacher, teacher-advisor, support staff, social worker, psychologist or psychological associate or other relevant school board staff, in addition to community personnel, parents, and the student;

Community Support Agencies

- schools shall establish, where possible, small group and/or individual counselling interventions in collaboration with community agencies that deal with substance use/abuse to support the substance use and abuse policy;
- the board shall maintain an up-to-date list of resource persons/agencies who can assist with substance use/abuse issues;
- the board shall support student-initiated and student-sponsored organizations and programs which support a drug-free and healthy lifestyle.

The Board prohibits the possession and use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs by students while on Board property and at Board sanctioned events.
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POLICY HISTORY

Approved	1997
Amended	2002