



Policy: Student Substance Use / Abuse

Policy Number: JFB

Policy Type: Students

Policy

Hanover School Division is committed to having a comprehensive plan to address substance use and abuse through education, early intervention and disciplinary action where required.

Abstinence is upheld as a legitimate and healthy personal choice. The Division has zero tolerance for the use, illegal possession and/or trafficking of:

- Alcohol
- Illicit or non-medical drugs
- Any intoxicating substance
- Vapes and/or vaping paraphernalia

Hanover School Division recognizes that substance use/abuse interferes with student success, both academically and in extra-curricular involvement. The use and abuse of any tobacco product, vaping products, alcohol, illicit or non-medical drugs, and controlled substances impacts negatively on the health and well-being of students, their sense of connectedness and belonging in their school, their engagement with learning and ultimately their ability to function in society.

The guidelines contained within this policy are intended to address issues such as, but not limited to, the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, illicit drugs, solvents, inhalants, other psychoactive drugs, and addiction behaviours.

Hanover School Division is committed to a comprehensive plan to address substance use and abuse through:

1. Educational prevention programming for all students at appropriate age levels.
2. Interventions for students with identified problems of substance abuse.
3. Disciplinary action for all instances listed below while under authority of the school, in attendance or upon returning to school, or during school-related extracurricular participation or attendance of:
 - the use of any tobacco product, or vaping product on school property
 - supplying of vaping products, tobacco or tobacco products to minors
 - being under the influence of controlled drugs or alcohol
 - possession of controlled drugs or alcohol
 - trafficking or the supplying of controlled or prescription drugs or alcohol

NB: Schools will enforce rules which prohibit the display of tobacco, alcohol or drug-related messages/advertising on clothing, personal objects or postings in lockers. Procedures and consequences are determined by school codes of conduct.

Individuals found to be trafficking while under the authority of the school or on divisional property, will face disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

School principals and teachers have the legal right to conduct searches of students and their property if there are reasonable grounds that indicate a breach of school regulations or discipline has occurred, in an effort to maintain order, discipline and student / staff safety. Searches will follow the guidelines established in SA-43 Search and Seizure Procedure.

Guidelines

1. Educational Prevention Programs

1.1. Program Objectives

- Promoting positive self-esteem and personal competence of students
- Developing effective social and communicative skills
- Developing skills for responsible decision-making
- Developing an awareness of healthy and productive lifestyle choices
- Providing accurate information about substance use / abuse on and legal consequences of substance abuse
- Providing students information about meaningful alternatives to substance use / abuse, tobacco products, alcohol and drugs.
- Encouraging and supporting the reduction of substance use / abuse
- Reinforcing the awareness that abstinence is a legitimate personal lifestyle choice

1.2. Program Curriculum

Hanover School Division promotes preventative education on substance use / abuse, using a wide range of available resources:

- Teaching of appropriate outcomes in the K-12 Curriculum (Physical Education / Health/Integrated)
- Manitoba Education materials including:
 - Review and Rate - Videos
- Supplementary Programming including:
 - Kids in the Know
- Divisional Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) Counselor Referral
- RCMP and MPIC materials and personnel including:
 - RCMP Community policing - school visits by officers
 - DARE Program
- Leadership Programs including:
 - TADD
- Motivational Multimedia / Speakers / Assemblies
- Manitoba Addictions Awareness Week Resource Kits
- School/Community Based Initiatives

2. Student Intervention Programs

2.1. Program Objectives

- To encourage responsible and healthy lifestyle choices
- To identify individuals in need of support in dealing with substance use/abuse
- To offer encouragement, support and assistance to individuals needing help in making positive lifestyle changes related to substance use/abuse

2.2. Identification of Individuals Needing Intervention

- Confidential referral by academic and support staff
- Confidential referral by Student Services personnel
- Concerns voiced through parents and peers
- Self-identification

2.3. Supports for Individuals Needing Intervention

- School-based counseling
- School-based peer support groups - mentoring and peer counseling
- Counseling provided by Student Services personnel
- Addictions Foundation of Manitoba Outreach Programs
- Community Supports such as a church support group
- Adolescent Mental Health personnel

3. Disciplinary Procedures

3.1. Schools should ensure that students and parents or guardians are fully aware of the divisional substance use abuse policy and the potential consequences if a breach of school and/or divisional policies has occurred.

3.2. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in all instances of:

- Use of tobacco or vaping products on school property
- Supplying of tobacco or vaping products to minors
- Being under the influence of controlled drugs or alcohol
- Possession of controlled drugs or alcohol
- Trafficking or supplying of controlled or prescription drugs or alcohol

...while under authority of the school, in attendance or upon returning to the school or during school-related extracurricular participation or attendance.

3.3. In compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, division staff shall:

- Treat all students equally and fairly
- React in a manner consistent with the purpose of ensuring the well-being, safety and security of all students.
- Conduct investigations, searches and disciplinary actions in a professional and appropriate manner, respectful of all parties.

4. Role of the Principal - First Infraction

4.1. Confiscate any alcohol, drugs or drug-related paraphernalia brought on to school property - this could include tobacco, nicotine or vape products openly displayed or used on school property. Items seized will not be returned but may be handed over to the RCMP.

4.2. Following divisional guidelines, conduct a search of the student's locker and personal effects if necessary.

4.3. Contact the parents or guardians to advise them of the situation and disciplinary procedures.

4.4. Contact the police for assistance or advice if necessary. Drug-related offenses may be reported to the police.

- 4.5. Take appropriate disciplinary action, depending on the severity of the offense - appropriate disciplinary action may involve a variety of interventions, including in-school and out-of-school suspension and the setting of criteria for the return of the student to school after a suspension.
- 4.6. Issue a suspension ranging from one day for lesser offenses to five days for more serious infractions. On a first offense the student may be referred to the division's AFM worker. Students who voluntarily work with the AFM worker may have their suspension reduced from five days to three days.
- 4.7. Where a first offense involves trafficking or other offenses such as violent, abusive or dangerous behaviour, the principal is to recommend to the Superintendents' Department that the student be suspended beyond five days, or according to the severity of the infraction, expelled from Hanover School Division schools.
- 4.8. Arrange for the safe departure of the student from the school property. Assistance may be required from parents/guardians, emergency contacts or police.
- 4.9. Arrange for appropriate follow-up with the student and/or parent and guardians. Set the terms of the student's return to school, with recommendation for voluntary counselling from the divisional Addictions Foundation of Manitoba worker, school-based, and/or Student Services personnel. Parents are encouraged to take part in the counselling process. Parents/guardians may be required to meet with the principal upon return of the student to the school.
- 4.10. Document the student's infraction of the substance use/abuse policy.
- 4.11. Advise the student of the consequences should there be a subsequent infraction.

5. Role of the Principal - Second or Repeated Infraction

- 5.1. Action is required:
 - 5.1.1. When a lesser offense of the same or similar nature is repeated at the same school in the same school year occurs.
 - 5.1.2. When a more serious offense of the same or similar nature is repeated in the same school, over the course of that student's attendance at that school.
 - 5.1.3. When a serious offense of same or similar nature involving longer-term suspension (more than five days) is repeated in the division, over the course of a student's attendance in the division.
 - 5.1.4. Principals may follow the same procedures as outlined in "4. Role of the Principals - First Infraction" and will issue a suspension ranging from three to five days.
 - 5.1.5. In the case of more serious alcohol-related infractions and in all drug-related infractions, recommend to the Superintendents' Department that the student be suspended for up to six weeks, or according to the severity of the infraction, expelled from Hanover School Division schools.
 - 5.1.6. Appropriate disciplinary action may involve a variety of interventions, including suspensions and the setting of criteria for the return of the student to school after a suspension.

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Related Forms:	