

# Public Schools Branch

## OPERATIONAL POLICY

### ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

<i>Policy Section</i> <b>School and Workplace Health and Safety</b>	<i>Policy Number</i> <b>606</b>
<i>Pages</i> <b>2</b>	<i>Approved Date</i> <b>November 14, 2018</b>
<i>Reviewed Date</i>	<i>Effective Date</i> <b>November 14, 2018</b>
<i>Replaces:</i> Operational Procedure 606 – Alcohol and Drugs, June 13, 2018	

#### 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure our schools are alcohol and drug free.

#### 2.0 SCOPE

2.1 This policy does not apply to the lawful use of medication prescribed by an authorized health care provider or over-the-counter medication when used for its intended purpose.

#### 3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 The Public Schools Branch promotes a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff. The Public Schools Branch recognizes the dangers of alcohol and drugs to children and the disruption such substances have on the school climate.
- 3.2 The Public Schools Branch prohibits students, staff, volunteers and visitors from being under the influence, possessing, using and/or distributing alcohol, drugs and/or drug paraphernalia on school premises, at a school-sponsored activity, or on transportation provided by the Public Schools Branch for students. The Public Schools Branch acknowledges the limited exception regarding the serving of alcohol in the Community Use of Schools procedure.

#### 4.0 PARAMETERS

- 4.1 The Public Schools Branch will demonstrate the following when implementing this policy:
- a) Respect for the rights of all individuals to benefit from a safe and healthy environment;
  - b) Fair procedural treatment as determined by the *Education Act*, its regulations, Public Schools Branch policies and procedures, and applicable collective agreements; and
  - c) Persistent and diligent efforts to encourage appropriate behaviors among students.
- 4.2 The Public Schools Branch recognizes that alcohol and drug addiction can be complex in nature and may require comprehensive solutions and supportive relationships with all partners in education.

**5.0 DEFINITIONS**

- 5.1 **Alcohol** – All substances defined as liquor in the *Liquor Control Act*.
- 5.2 **Drug** – A controlled substance which is prohibited under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, cannabis as defined by the *Cannabis Control Act*, or a prescribed/over-the-counter medication which is misused, or any other misused substance which causes a mind or body altering effect, such as but not limited to solvents, correction fluids, glue, gasoline, aerosol spray, and cleaning fluids.
- 5.3 **School Climate** – The environment, values and relationships found within a school. A positive school climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, included and accepted, and actively promote positive behaviours and interactions. Equity, inclusion and respect are critical components embedded in the learning environment of a permanent school climate.
- 5.4 **School Premises** – A building or property under the management or operation of an education authority that is used in whole or in part for the instruction of students.
- 5.5 **School-sponsored activity** – Any activity, whether conducted on or off school premises, that is sponsored, recognized or authorized by a principal or the Public Schools Branch.

**6.0 CROSS REFERENCE**

- 6.1 PSB Operational Procedure 606.1 - Alcohol and Drugs
- 6.2 PSB Operational Procedure 410 - Students Requiring Assistance Physical/Medical During School Hours
- 6.3 Operational Procedure 702.1 – Community Use of Schools
- 6.4 *Education Act*
- 6.5 *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada)*
- 6.6 *Cannabis Control Act*
- 6.7 *Liquor Control Act*

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