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**POLICY P.034.SCO**

**TITLE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**Date Issued: 15 May 1998**

**Last Revised: ~~27 May 2008~~ XXX 2018**

**Authorization: Board: 11 May 1998**

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**1.0 OBJECTIVE**

To confirm that alcohol, **cannabis**, narcotics, and restricted drugs, other than those medically prescribed, are not to be used by or be in the possession of anyone on Board property or, for example, on school buses, during field trips, or at Board and school related activities off school premises (except as prescribed in Policy P.135.CON: Community Use of School Facilities). This policy includes the misuse of solvents, gasoline and cleaning fluids, and low-alcohol products.

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

2.1 In this policy, unless otherwise stated:

- a) "Use/abuse of drugs" is interpreted to mean the non-medical use/abuse of controlled or restricted drugs, including the following:
  - (i) all substances that are listed in the ~~Narcotic Control Act~~; **Controlled Drugs and Substances Act**,
  - (ii) all "controlled drugs" and "restricted drugs" as defined and listed in the *Food and Drugs Act*, Schedule G (Sections 33 to 38) and Schedule H (Section 40);
  - (iii) all non-prescribed use/abuse of ~~medical drugs which are available on prescription~~ **medication**; and
  - (iv) any other substance, when used to induce a mind- or body-altering effect (such as solvents, correction fluids, gasoline and cleaning fluids).
- b) "Alcohol" is to be interpreted as meaning all substances defined as liquor in the *Liquor Licence Act* as well as low-alcohol products
- c) **"Cannabis" carries the definition used in the Cannabis Act, 2017.**

### 3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 The Board shall take all feasible measures to minimize the use of alcohol, **cannabis**, and controlled/restricted drugs by students within its jurisdiction by:
- a) providing an environment free from alcohol, **cannabis**, and other drugs;
  - b) fostering an anti-drug/alcohol/**cannabis** culture in schools;
  - c) supporting programs that will help students develop the skills needed to make healthy lifestyle choices;
  - d) ~~encouraging and supporting the rehabilitation of students with alcohol and/or drug problems;~~
  - e) ~~recognizing that low self-esteem is a common cause of drug and/or alcohol~~  
**identifying and understanding the factors that influence substance**  
~~use/abuse, and aiming to help students develop and maintain confidence and a feeling of self-worth and respect for self and others~~  
**focusing on prevention and early intervention;**
  - f) encouraging and supporting ~~the rehabilitation of~~ **intervention for** students with alcohol, **cannabis**, and/or drug problems;
  - g) prescribing disciplinary interventions in accordance with Board **Policy P.020.SCO**  
~~Student Suspension and Policy P.026.SCO Student~~  
~~Suspension/Investigation/Possible~~ **and** Expulsion; and
  - h) supporting professional development opportunities which endeavor to ensure that educators and other staff are competent and confident in recognizing and handling substance abuse.
- 3.2 The principal shall ensure that all parents/guardians, staff and students are aware of this policy and its related procedures.
- a) ~~orientation sessions are given to all school staff regarding this policy and its related procedure.~~

### 4.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

***Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, 1996***  
***Cannabis Act, 2017***

Board Policy P.032.SCO: Safe Schools

~~Board Policy P.020.SCO: Student Suspension~~

Board Policy P.026.SCO: Student Suspension/~~Investigation/Possible~~ **and** Expulsion

Board Policy ~~P.042~~ **135**.CON: Community Use of School Facilities

Board Procedure PR.521.SCO: Safe Schools

~~Board Procedure PR.511.SCO: Student Suspension~~

Board Procedure PR.515.SCO: Student Suspension/Investigation/Possible Expulsion

Board Procedure PR.523.SCO: Substance Abuse  
Board Procedure PR.534.SCO: Investigation, Search, and/or Seizure (Students)  
Board Procedure PR.528.SCO: Critical Incident Review Process