

## COAST MOUNTAINS SCHOOL DISTRICT 82

**Educational Administration**

Date Adopted: Nov. 1997  
Date Revised: Apr. 6, 2005

### **2240: Illegal Drugs**

#### Policy

The Board of School Trustees, School District 82 (Coast Mountains), will not condone the use, possession, supply, or sale of illegal drugs in schools or at School District 82 (Coast Mountains) sponsored events, regardless of whether the activity takes place inside or outside the School District geographical boundaries.

School Act: Reference: 85(2)(c)(ii), (d), and 85(3)

**85** (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a board may, subject to this Act and the regulations, do all or any of the following:

- (c) make rules
  - (ii) respecting suspension of student and the provision of education programs for suspended students,
- (d) suspend students, in accordance with the rules under paragraph (c) (ii), so long as the board continues to make available to those students an educational program
- (3) Despite any other provision of this Act, a board may refuse to offer an educational program to a student 16 years or age or older is that student
  - (a) has refused to comply with the code of conduct, other rules and policies referred to in section 6, or
  - (b) has failed to apply himself or herself to this or her studies.

#### Regulations

#### **Definition**

In this Policy, the word “drug” means:

*Alcohol or any “controlled substance”, as defined by the Controlled Drug and Substances Act (CDSA), that is not prescribed by a qualified medical practitioner, including but not limited to cannabis, opiates, amphetamines, methamphetamines or barbiturates.*

#### **Introduction**

The Board of School Trustees believes that all students have a right to attend school in an

environment conducive to learning. Since alcohol and other drug possession, supply or sale is illegal and interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of all individuals, the school district is committed to preventing drug use and to maintaining a drug-free educational environment.

The Board of School Trustees recognizes the importance of working in partnership with students, parents, community groups, social agencies and the R.C.M.P. to achieve safe, caring and orderly schools.

The Board of School Trustees believes that an effective drug prevention strategy encompasses three aspects: prevention, intervention and rehabilitation.

Protective factors the school can help promote include:

- positive bonds to home, school and community
- clear standards for behaviours and strong norms against drug use
- problem solving and interpersonal skills
- meaningful involvement in caring activities, such as service to others
- a sense of purpose and a positive view of personal future

All district schools will implement appropriate prevention education. Suggested approaches include the following

- |                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Lions Quest Skills for Growing     | Grades K-5  |
| • Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence | Grades 6-8  |
| • Lions Quest Skills for Action      | Grades 9-10 |
| • Tobacco Policy                     | Grades K-10 |

### **Intervention**

Students shall not attend school or any school-organized or sponsored event while under the influence of drugs. Students shall not buy, sell, distribute or possess drugs on school premises or at any event that is organized or sponsored by a school.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the established School Code of Conduct and with relevant district regulations.

For the purposes of enforcing school rules and maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment, principals and vice principals may conduct lawful searches of student lockers and any other property found on school premises in accordance with the procedures set out in this policy.

The principal, or vice-principal or a Board-approved designate may conduct random lockers searches to ensure compliance with school board policy regarding drugs. These searches may include the use of drug detection dogs from an accredited organization.

### **Rehabilitation**

The Board of School Trustees will work in concert with other agencies to endeavor to bring the students who have contravened this policy back into a healthy and constructive relationship with their school and community.

### **Procedures**

The principal of a school is responsible for ensuring that the Board's policy statement on drugs will be communicated to students and parents at the beginning of each school year.

The principal of a school is responsible for ensuring that students and parents are advised that lockers may be subject to random searches at any time to ensure compliance with school district policy on drugs. Students and parents must be advised that students are not obliged to obtain a school locker, but that if a student obtains a school locker, they do so on the condition that it may be subject to random searches and that it is to be used only for authorized purposes. Students and parents must be advised that drug-sniffing dogs may be used to conduct such random searches. This policy will also be outlined in each student's handbook. Rules Regarding Students Lockers: Conditions of Use.

A student who is under the influence of, or using drugs, or who is promoting, selling or distributing such a substance during school hours or at a school-sponsored event, will be disciplined accordingly:

1. Students supplying or selling illegal drugs will be indefinitely suspended.
2. For students in possession of, using, or under the influence of drugs, including alcohol,
  - (a) if the first offence in a school year, the consequence will be the principal's decision, which may include a suspension of five days and counseling of the student and his/her parent/guardian;
  - (b) if the second offence in a school year, the student will be indefinitely suspended (see Policy 2115 Student Suspension).

In addition to the imposition of school district discipline, the School Board may, depending upon the circumstances of the case, report to the police the circumstances of any use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs.

The normal conditions for re-admission are:

- evidence that the student can succeed in a school environment without further abuse of drugs, such as proof of enrollment in an approved intervention program
- completion of all assigned work
- completion of an impact statement (if requested)
- school-based contract by school

### **Search and Seizure**

In performing their official duties as school district employees, school administrators or their designates, may, if they have reasonable grounds to be suspicious, search students, their lockers and the vehicles. Students and their vehicles may only be searched on school property. Any illegal substance or dangerous object found in students' lockers, vehicles or on a student may be seized and held as evidence. Procedures relating to this policy may be changed with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

### **Procedure for Search and Seizure**

When the administrator believes that charges may be laid as a result of the search, the police shall be informed without delay.

Illegal substances seized must be turned over to the police.

Generally, dangerous objects seized must be turned over to the police. However, administrators may use discretion when it is clear that an object was not brought to the school for harmful purposes (for example, a pocket knife). In these cases, the item should be confiscated and the parent notified that the object may be picked up from the school.

Administrative Officers shall not physically search students. Students should be requested to provide any concealed articles on their person, or personal property.

### **Rules Regarding Student Lockers: Conditions of Use**

Most schools in School District 82 have lockers available for student use. Students are not required to have a locker assigned to them; lockers will only be assigned to students who complete this form. Lockers remain the property of School District 82 (Coast Mountains). By applying for a locker the student agrees that **LOCKERS MAY BE SUBJECTED TO RANDOM SEARCHES BY SCHOOL DISTRICT 82 STAFF, AND THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY USE TRAINED DOGS TO SWEEP LOCKER AREAS FOR DRUGS.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, student, understand that this locker is assigned to me for use during the school year on the following conditions:

1. I am responsible for the locker that is assigned to me. No one else may use this locker. If I have been assigned to share this locker then only I and the other student to whom it has been assigned may use it.
2. I agree to use only an approved lock on this locker. I will register the combination of the lock at the office. I will not divulge my combination to anyone else.
3. I will only use the locker for purposes relating to school and my attendance at school. I understand that I may use the locker to store books, school supplies and equipment, clothing, school sports equipment, lunches and necessary personal items. I understand that nothing else is permitted in my locker unless the principal or vice-[principal has permitted it in writing.
4. No controlled substances, weapons or prohibited or offensive material may be placed in the lockers.
5. **I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT THE SCHOOL OFFICIALS MAY SEARCH STUDENTS LOCKERS AT ANY TIME AND WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE IN ORDER TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF USE AND OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES AND RULES, AND THAT SEARCHES BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS MAY INCLUDE THE USE OF TRAINED DOGS TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF DRUGS OR PROHIBITED MATERIALS IN STUDENT LOCKERS.**
6. I understand that my permission to use the locker may be terminated if I do not comply with the conditions of use, school policies or rules.
7. I understand that it is the responsibility of all members of the school community to keep our schools safe. If I have reason to believe that any locker contains anything that would threaten the safety of other students, staff or any other person, I agree to immediately report the information to a teacher or administrator. I understand that the School District will keep my name confidential unless required by law to disclose it.
8. I agree to keep the locker clean and to remove foodstuffs on a regular basis.
9. I understand that I am responsible for cleaning and removing all material from my locker at the end of the year or when I leave school.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent/legal guardian acknowledgement and agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (the "student"). I agree to the terms and conditions of use set out in this document, and agree that the student may have a locker subject to these terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date