



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

APPENDIX B ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS POLICY S.S. 03 REPORT.DOCX

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 4, 2015	May 19, 2015	Click here to enter a date.
Loretta Notten, Superintendent of Governance and Policy Vincent Burzotta, Superintendent of Safe Schools		

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



G. Poole
Associate Director of Academic Affairs

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Associate Director of Planning and
Facilities

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Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The conduct of students, supported by family, school and parish, is expected to be modelled upon Christ. It is the job of the school to provide both proactive education and an appropriate disciplinary response when conduct falls below the above standard. The prevalence of alcohol and drugs in youth culture invites our Catholic School communities to shine a particular focus on these issues. Our current TCDSB policy related to Alcohol and Other Drugs requires revision to be consistent with both our Multi-Year Strategic Plan and with updates in current Safe Schools' legislation and TCDSB policies.

B. PURPOSE

1. Board policies must be aligned with all changes in legislation. As part of our review of the TCDSB Policy register, our policies for Safe Schools, and for Alcohol and Other Drugs in particular, have been revised to reflect the recent legislative requirements and the goals of our Multi-year Strategic Plan. Student Statistics reflect some prevalence of offences related to alcohol and drugs in youth culture and thus it is important to consider both proactive education and appropriate disciplinary responses when such matters arise. Proactive curriculum delivery, supported by a cross-disciplinary team approach, has been successful in helping to reduce the number of related offences.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Per Ministry Guidelines, TCDSB alcohol and drug prevention curriculum is found at all levels and in various subjects of the curriculum, as well as in extra-curricular activities. That said, the revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum, within the "*Substance Abuse, Addictions and Related Behaviors*" strand is primary entry point for instruction related to alcohol and drug abuse.
2. The TCDSB program department, comprised of Curriculum and Accountability and Safe Schools, assists in the development and implementation of any related curriculum supports. Further cross-disciplinary support is received through the Social Work and Psychology

departments, as well as through the TCDSB's Mental Health Lead and public health nurses.

3. The Smoke Free Ontario Act governs all offences related to smoking on school property, while the Municipal Code Chapter 709, also reinforces that smoking is prohibited on all school grounds.
4. TCDSB Code of Conduct outlines the various violations related to alcohol and other drugs, which include possession, use, distribution and trafficking of prohibited substances.

The TCDSB Safe Schools' Consolidated Policy on Suspension and Expulsion outlines the offences for which suspension and expulsion can occur and the protocol and procedure to follow in such cases. In matters related to substance abuse, the TCDSB favours an approach to student discipline which is supportive rather than punitive to the student and the school population. The goal is returning the student to education as soon as feasible.

5. Per the Police/School Board Protocol, possession, use or trafficking of drugs requires school personnel to inform and involve the police in the response.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Safe Schools statistics reveal that Alcohol and Drug related offences are fairly stable, which is to say – they are neither strongly increasing nor declining. The statistics reveal that proactive, cross-disciplinary team approach to alcohol and drug education is impactful, as statistics are generally a relatively small percentage of the total number of incidents.

E. VISION

VISION	PRINCIPLES	GOALS
Provide a newly revised policy to govern both proactive and reactive responses to alcohol and	Aligns with the MYSP goals of Fostering Student Achievement and Well-	New revised policy consistent with the MYSP Policy Template.

VISION	PRINCIPLES	GOALS
other drugs in our Catholic schools.	Being and Living Our Catholic Values.	Clearly understood obligations regarding proactive education in relation to adverse effects of alcohol and other drugs. Clearly understood processes for responding to alcohol and drug related offences.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The policy has been revised to provide a policy that is clear and aligned with recent developments in legislation, in curriculum, and in board practices.
2. Students will receive proactive education about smoking, alcohol and drug use and abuse, and its potential impact. The Health and Physical Education Curriculum will be the primary point of entry for said instruction.
3. The departments that will play a pivotal role in the curricular and co-curricular instruction and response in relation to alcohol and drug use will be the Curriculum and Accountability department, the Safe Schools Department, the Social Work and Psychology department and the mental health lead. The board will also access outside agencies who are willing to aid in the proactive education and early intervention of students involved in substance abuse.
4. Discipline related to substance abuse will be governed by Safe Schools policies related to suspension and expulsion and the Police-School Board protocol. Further, administrators will endeavour to be guided by a supportive rather than punitive approach to students who are involved in substance offences, keeping in mind its obligations to the full student population.
5. Policy revision reflects the goals of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the principles of our Catholic Social Teachings, in order to build and sustain a

positive, safe, and inclusive school climate in all TCDSB learning environments.

G. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Local Safe and Accepting Schools Teams will review local data related to the number of incidents involving smoking, alcohol or illegal drugs (use, possession, trafficking) to inform their annual Safe Schools Plan and establish yearly local priorities.

H. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. The TCDSB Curriculum Department, and the Physical Health and Education Department in particular, are providing communication to date regarding the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum and currently ensure that any new and relevant messaging is forwarded to schools.
2. On a go forward basis, communication will be supported through not only the Superintendent of Curriculum and Accountability, but also supported by the following departments: Social Work, Psychology, Mental Health Lead and Safe Schools.

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the board approve the revised S.S. 03 Alcohol and Other Drugs policy.