

School District No. 22 (Vernon)

POLICY

Please file in **By-Laws, Policy & Procedure Manual**

No. 9.15.0

Adopted: 09 May 2006
Amended:

Substance Abuse Policy

Policy

The Board of Trustees believes in providing students with a learning environment conducive to maximizing their intellectual, physical, social and emotional development. The presence, use and association with alcohol and other illicit drugs interferes with that learning environment. Students using and associating with people using alcohol and other illicit drugs may harm themselves, negatively impact others and disrupt the learning environment. The Board is committed to preserving the health and safety of all students. In keeping with this commitment the Board believes that students have:

- a right to a public school education that fosters healthy living free from substance abuse;
- a right to a drug and alcohol free environment at all school and district functions;
- a right to freedom from individuals impaired by drugs or alcohol; and
- the responsibility to abstain from these substances while under the authority of the school.

The Board accepts the concept of substance abuse as treatable and recognizes that this problem in schools cannot be solved solely by suspending those students who are involved. The Board will strive to maintain a balance between compassion for students seeking help for substance abuse problems and the protection of the learning environment. The Board recognizes the need to address substance abuse issues early through preventative programs beginning at the elementary level and continuing through high school. Intervention must also be available to support those students with substance abuse issues. Finally, the Board recognizes due process is necessary in the development and implementation of clear and concise procedures that address substance abuse issues in our schools.

The Board expects students to be completely free of alcohol and other illicit drugs while under the jurisdiction of the School District. Every student shall be subject to this policy while on school premises, going to and returning from school and at all school sponsored games and functions whenever and wherever held. For the purposes of this policy, 'using' includes being under the influence of alcohol or other illicit drugs at any time when the student is under the jurisdiction of the School District. The Board also

expects students not be in association with individuals using, dealing or supplying these substances.

The Board recognizes that to be effective, this Policy cannot stand alone, but must be coordinated with the related policies of other agencies. The Board will, therefore, cooperate and collaborate with students, staff, parents and community agencies to ensure the implementation of this policy and to support community-wide initiatives that address substance abuse problems among children and youth.