Policy Statement

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SUBJECT:	**Policy on Drug Free Atmosphere in our Schools and Related Activities**

Approval Date: December 8, 1996	**Resolution No:** C-95/96-25
Revision Date: June 26, 2014	**Resolution No:** C-13/14-291
Origin: Corporate Committee	

IN THE MATTER OF MAINTAINING A DRUG FREE ATMOSPHERE IN OUR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES:

The Western Québec School Board does not condone drug abuse/use by its students.

This Board makes every effort to cooperate with, and enlist the support of the Health & Social Service rehabilitation programs and other related community-based organizations designed specifically to address the needs of students who have a recognized drug problem.

This policy is meant to support the schools and centres' code of conduct by reflecting their own reality, culture and vision. Section 242 of the Education Act gives the School Board the power to expel students for "just and sufficient cause."

Students under the influence or in unjustified possession of drugs on school property or while participating in a school activity can expect the following action(s):

1) The school authorities will meet with the student and determine the type of intervention required.

2) The school authorities may conduct a search of the student's personal property and/or locker. Reasonable measures must be taken to respect the student's privacy and integrity when a search is conducted.

3) When the student is under the age of 14, the Director of Youth Protection will be notified.

4) The school authorities will confiscate the drugs and any related paraphernalia.

5) The parents/guardians of students under the age of 18 years will be contacted.

6) The police will be notified and given the confiscated goods.

7) The student may be suspended immediately for a period of up to ten (10) school days. During the time of suspension:

- A drug information package will be provided to parents/guardians by the Western Québec School Board's Drug Awareness Resource Team (D.A.R.T.) personnel.

- During the time of suspension, the student will be required to connect with D.A.R.T. personnel or other appropriate regional services.

- Students may be referred to outside agencies for an assessment to determine the need for rehabilitation services. In these cases, the recommendation by D.A.R.T. personnel will be provided to school administration. A signed authorization for exchange of pertinent information with the outside services will be requested.

- During the time of suspension, the student will be expected to keep up with school work.

8) The principal may recommend to the School Board the expulsion of students repeating the offence.

DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Western Québec School Board has a responsibility to provide a safe and secure learning environment for its students; consequently, this School Board will not tolerate drug trafficking in its schools. When a student is found in possession of drugs with the intent to traffic, or has committed a drug trafficking offense, the police will be informed. The student may be suspended for a period of ten (10) days, and in addition, the principal may recommend to the School Board the expulsion of the student.

REFERENCES

1) Education Act

2) Police presence in educational institutions document.

   http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/references/publications/resultats-de-la-recherche/detail/article/presence-policiere-dans-les-etablissements-denseignement-cadre-de-reference/pubLang/1/

3) Youth Protection Act

4) Code of conduct of the school

5) Western Québec School Board's Policy C-26 "Administering Medication at School"

DEFINITIONS

Drug:

Any chemical agent that alters the biochemical or physiological processes of tissues or organisms. In this sense, the term drug refers to any substance which is principally used for its psychoactive effects. The term refers to legal (such as medication) and illegal substances.

Trafficking:

To sell, administer, give, transfer, transport, send or deliver the substance.