



Porter Creek Secondary

Hickory Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4M4 Phone: 1-867-667-8044 Fax: 1-867-667-8953

Principal: Mr. Souhail Soujah Website: www.yesnet.ca/schools/pcss Email: kim.bicudo@gov.yk.ca

STUDENT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG GUIDELINES

Porter Creek Secondary School recognizes that the use of alcohol, illegal drugs and the misuse of prescription drugs is detrimental to students. Chemical abuse affects their mental and physical health as well as their education and social development.

Porter Creek Secondary School is committed to provide the highest possible standard of learning environment for its students. The school and its staff members share a strong interest in the social and personal health and well being of all students.

Porter Creek Secondary School's position is that alcohol and other drugs, other than those medically prescribed, are not to be used by, nor be in the possession of individuals during the school day, school activities or student-related activities, either on or off school property. Furthermore, no student is to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs during school programs, activities or events.

The purpose of this document is to create a school environment which is alcohol and other drug free and to provide support services to students and to the families of students involved detrimentally with alcohol and other drugs. The guidelines recognizes and is sensitive to the legal rights of all students.

The major components of our approach to alcohol and other drug use and their attendant problems are:

- **Prevention**
- **Intervention**
- **Counselling and Rehabilitation**
- **Communication**

PREVENTION

Goal

The goal of the prevention component is to provide an educational process that encourages students to demonstrate knowledge, attitudes and skills that promote positive lifestyle behaviour and well-being concerning alcohol and other drug use.

Strategies

The school has implemented a drug/alcohol awareness unit within the Health Curriculum. The curriculum helps students to understand:

- a) the effect of alcohol and other drugs on the body;
- b) the factors that influence people to not/use drugs;
- c) the decision adolescents face to not use/use drugs;
- d) the alternatives to drug use.

and

- e) to acquire the skills needed to resist peer pressure.

The school will continue to develop, review and revise curricula and provide programs for all students to assist in the promotion of positive health behaviours and to discourage alcohol and other drug abuse. In order to assist students in promoting positive health behaviours, the staff will be provided with opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills with respect to alcohol and other drug education.

The school has developed and encourages student participation in a full range of school based activities in such areas as athletics, the arts and personal development.

The school provides comprehensive support services to assist students in decision making and skill development to prevent alcohol and other drug abuse. These support services include school based guidance counsellors, alcohol and drug counsellors, outside body agencies, etc...

INTERVENTION

Goal

An established process to provide appropriate identification and intervention with students experiencing problems, including firm, consistent and equitable disciplinary action regarding alcohol or other drug related infractions.

Strategies

Staff Training

The school will provide the teaching staff with in-service training concerning the nature of student alcohol and other drug use, and the signs and symptoms of alcohol/drug abuse.

Student Assistance Program

The school will have in place a Student Assistance Program, an early intervention procedure to assist students who are experiencing problems and/or a change of behavior. The program uses a process whereby staff, students, and/or parents may refer a student to the S.A.P. support team for assistance.

Counselling and Rehabilitation

Counselling and rehabilitation will be offered to those students and their families who require assistance. Referrals may be made to the appropriate community agencies when needed.

Guidelines for Referring Students Suspected of Being Under the Influence of Alcohol or other Controlled Substances (drugs).

A. The teacher's role:

If a student exhibits symptoms of being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, the teacher will take the student to the principal or vice-principal.

The teacher will document observable behaviours of concern and times, making every effort to separate facts from opinions

B. The administrator's role:

The principal or designate shall talk with the student to look for signs of influence.

An adult witness, preferably another teacher, should be present.

The principal (or designate) will document events and observations.

Disciplinary Procedures

A. The use or possession of alcohol and other drugs in the school environment will not be tolerated and is a breach of school rules. The procedures provided herein will be applied consistently by all members of the school staff under the direction of the principal.

B. Consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Porter Creek Secondary School will

- treats all of its students equally and fairly.
- treats all incidents in a professional manner.
- reacts in a manner consistent with the purpose of ensuring the well-being of all students.

C. School personnel ensure that the student and parents or legal guardians are made aware of the nature and potential consequences of his/her actions. At all times, any action taken must first safeguard the life and health of the student(s).

D. Consequences:

I. Use or possession of alcohol or other drugs.

- a) A first infraction will result in a three day suspension. A meeting with parents, administration and the student will take place prior to the student's return to class. A referral will be made to a counsellor for follow up.
- b) A second infraction will result in a five day suspension and mandatory counselling.
- c) A third infraction will result in a recommendation to the School Council for expulsion. The student will remain suspended until the board reaches its decision regarding expulsion.

Note: Guidelines infractions listed above as first, second, third refer to the entire time the student is enrolled in Porter Creek Secondary School

Note: If the safety or well-being of other students is at risk, normal procedures (in 'a' and/or 'b' above) may be circumvented and a recommendation may be made to the superintendent for longer suspension or to the school board for expulsion.

II. Trafficking:

- a) A first infraction will result in a recommendation to the School Council for expulsion. The student will be suspended until a decision regarding expulsion is made by the board.
- b) The administration will report the incident to the police.

Guideline for Seizures of Alcohol and Other Drugs

- A. Any student suspected of being in possession of alcohol or drugs will be reported to the principal immediately.
- B. A reliable adult witness should be present when a staff member assumes possession of alcohol or illicit drugs from a student. The student should not be left unattended.
- C. The principal will ask for the student's cooperation in emptying pockets, purses and knapsacks, etc.

Note: Failure to cooperate with a search will result in the student being immediately suspended for 1 to 3 days. A second failure to cooperate will mean a report to the police and a further suspension of 4 to 6 days.

- D. Police involvement will be used at the discretion of the principal.
- E. The search of a student's locker and personal effects within the locker include a witness when possible.

Note: School lockers are the property of the school, and as such, subject to search without the student's approval.

- F. Documentation of any seizure will occur as soon as possible. Students will be notified of the conditions of documentation and that, other than being released to parents and police as required by this protocol, this information is confidential.
- G. For any student suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, arrangements must be made for the student's safe departure from the school property, if required by either the parents, or legal guardians or the police.
- H. All drugs, other than alcohol, will be turned over to the police. Alcohol will be disposed of, at the discretion of the principal

Goal

To provide support services to students and families of students with an identified alcohol or other substance abuse concern or problem.

Strategies

Individual and/or group counselling will be provided through school counsellors and Addictions organizations in the community

A list of community agencies will be compiled which can be used for school staff members as referral information for students and their families.

COMMUNICATION

Goal

To facilitate communication of Porter Creek Secondary School drug and alcohol guidelines.

Strategies

The guidelines shall be communicated to students through such things as student handbook, assemblies, posters and other means of media presentation.

The guidelines shall be communicated to parents through such means as school handbooks, and school parent meetings.

The guidelines will be communicated to the community through school newsletters and other media.

Staff, student and parental awareness of the guidelines will be the responsibility of the school administration.