



AP 481 – EMPLOYEES – ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

BACKGROUND

Saskatoon Public Schools has an educational and societal responsibility to prohibit the employee use or possession of alcohol and drugs at all buildings and property owned by the Division. The Division is also committed to the health and safety of its employees, students, environment, and the public. The use of drugs and alcohol can create unacceptable safety risks to everyone at the workplace.

Employees have the right to work and students have the right to be educated in an environment free of substance abuse and with persons free from the effects of drugs or alcohol. Drugs and alcohol are hazards to the school environment and to the credibility and reputation of the Division.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this administrative procedure the following definitions shall apply:

Addiction - is defined as a compulsive substance use despite harmful consequence; intense focus on using a certain substance such as alcohol or drugs to the point that it takes over a person's life. People who are addicted keep using alcohol or a drug even though they know it will cause problems. Addiction is a disability and must be diagnosed by a medical professional.

Illegal Drugs - fall into two categories: the first category is comprised of those drugs that are illegal to possess, sell, and consume. The second category includes those drugs that are legal to possess, sell, and consume when prescribed by a physician, but are then misused by the person to whom the drugs have been prescribed, or are used by individuals not under a prescribing doctor's care, and who may have obtained the drugs by illegal means.

Impairment - is defined as: the inability to perform essential job functions and interact safely and effectively with others.

The division strongly encourages employees who abuse alcohol or cannabis or use illegal drugs to seek assistance to stop abusing alcohol or drugs before they have an incident. There is an expectation to report the addiction to their employer. Failure to do so, as set out below, could result in the termination of their employment.

Note: While an employee may legally possess a drug substance, this provision recognized that it is the Board's right to prohibit or restrict its use on school property or at school-sponsored events.

PROCEDURES

1. Use of alcohol and drugs prohibited
 - 1.1. At work or while on school premises or at school sponsored events, including during breaks which may be paid or unpaid, employees shall not:



- 1.1.1. use, consume, possess, distribute, offer for sale, or sell alcohol, cannabis, illegal drugs, illegal drug paraphernalia, prescribed drugs for which the employee does not have a prescription or prescribed drugs which may cause impairment;
- 1.1.2. be impaired or under the influence or be unfit for work due to drugs, alcohol or other substances which may be illegal or cause impairment;
- 1.1.3. be impaired or under the influence while operating a division vehicle or their personal vehicle for division-related purposes;
- 1.1.4. have a strong odour on their person of alcohol or cannabis.

2. Consequences for Breach

- 2.1. Employees who report to work under the influence or are determined to be under the influence while at work will be sent home via safe transportation with further follow-up required.
- 2.2. Violation of this administrative procedure will lead to disciplinary action up to and including possible termination of the contract of employment.
- 2.3. At the sole discretion of the Board, an employee who is subject to discipline for a breach of this administrative procedure may be required by the Board to do any or all of the following:
 - 2.3.1. commence counselling as recommended by a physician or addictions counsellor;
 - 2.3.2. provide correspondence from the treating physician that the employee can return to work and safely perform the required duties;
 - 2.3.3. provide updates from the employee's physician regarding treatment on a predetermined schedule.

3. Use of Prescribed Drugs at Work for Accommodation Purposes

- 3.1. Possession or use of prescription drugs that may cause impairment may be allowed if required to accommodate an employee with a disability as defined by the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.
- 3.2. In order to determine if an accommodation is required, the employee shall provide to the Board a medical report from the employee's physician setting out:
 - 3.2.1. the medical restrictions which require the use of the prescription medication during work hours;
 - 3.2.2. the details of the prescription including the following:
 - 3.2.2.1. whether or not the prescription drug must be taken during working hours or so close before working hours that impairment would be present during working hours;
 - 3.2.2.2. how the prescription drug causes impairment (i.e. groggy)
 - 3.2.2.3. the name and dosage of the prescription drug that must be taken during working hours;



- 3.2.2.4. the specific method by which the prescription drug will be administered, i.e. oral, injection, smoking or vaping;
 - 3.2.2.5. the length of time after taking the prescription drug that impairment may persist; and
 - 3.2.2.6. the expected duration the prescription drug will need to be taken by the employee.
4. The employee must provide updates to the Board in the event of any changes to the medical information.
5. Upon receiving the required medical information from the employee, the Board shall determine what, if any accommodation is required.
6. As part of an accommodation plan, the Board will set out the requirements for the possession, use and storage, and security of the prescription drug and any associated equipment while on school property.
7. Any prescribed drug allowed as part of an accommodation plan must be used solely for the intended purpose as currently prescribed by the employee's physician and must be used solely by the employee for whom it has been prescribed.

DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS

1. Employees:
 - 1.1. Employees suffering from an alcohol or drug addiction are strongly encouraged to seek medical treatment and rehabilitation.
 - 1.2. Employees are encouraged to utilize the division Employee Family Assistance Program or community programs before the problem interferes with job performance.
 - 1.3. The job security or promotion of an employee will not be jeopardized by requesting counselling; however, the employee is expected to perform all required duties in a competent manner.
2. Employees:
 - 2.1. Any employee who is addicted to alcohol or drugs, whether prescription or non-prescription, shall immediately inform the Board if there is any possibility that their addiction may have an impact on the workplace or their employment.
 - 2.2. The Employee is not required to provide the Board with a diagnosis but shall provide to the Board a medical report indicating any medical restrictions that may exist.
 - 2.3. The responsibility for correcting unsatisfactory job performance or behavior resulting from alcohol or drugs remains with the employee.
3. Employees:
 - 3.1. Employees may be granted a leave of absence as part of an accommodation plan to participate in a drug or alcohol addiction rehabilitation program.
 - 3.2. The Employee shall supply to the Board a medical report from the employee's doctor indicating:
 - 3.2.1. the medial restrictions that require an absence from work.



- 3.2.2. the expected length of time the employee will be absent from work.
- 3.3. The leave of absence shall be taken as sick leave to the extent that the employee has sick leave available, and the remaining time required for the leave shall be unpaid sick leave.
4. Information concerning an employee's involvement in a treatment program or with treatment agencies will be held in the strictest confidence and will not be disclosed except as authorized in writing by the employee, as required by law, or where there is a serious and imminent risk to the health or safety of the employee.

Reference:

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