

Drug Free Protocol Operating Guidelines (2018-2019)

- As a general principle, possession of, or trafficking in, any illegal substance is utterly incompatible with the statutory requirement of the *School Act* and the Student Code of Conduct.
- The boards are committed to dealing with possession of, or trafficking in, illegal substances in the school environment in a vigorous way.
- RCMP personnel assisted by a trained canine member(s) of the force will conduct co-operative patrols of the school when reasonable suspicion exists.
- If any illegal substance is detected within school property as a result of an RCMP patrol of the school or at any other time, the appropriate student will be dealt with by school administration rather than, and instead of, the student being dealt with in a criminal context by the RCMP.
- The RCMP will not undertake any criminal investigation unless they believe that the circumstances are extraordinary, for example, the discovery of an amount of an illegal substance associated with the offence of trafficking.
- If the affected student is unable to provide compelling reason why the general principle should not be applied to him or her, a recommendation for expulsion may be the result.
- In all cases, the parents or legal guardians of an affected student will be notified of salient facts that have come to light as a result of any contravention of the Protocol.

School Act Code of Conduct

"A student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- (a) be diligent in pursuing the student's studies;
- (b) attend school regularly and punctually;
- (c) co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;
- (d) comply with the rules of the school;
- (e) account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
- (f) respect the rights of others."

The School Act, Section 12

"The principal may recommend the board expel the student if

- (a) the student has displayed an attitude of wilful, blatant and repeated refusal to comply with Section 12, or
- (b) the student's conduct is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school."

The School Act, Section 24(7)

Consequences



- Possession of illegal drugs will normally result in a recommendation for expulsion from the school being forwarded to the Board of Trustees.
- Alternative educational programming will be provided to students expelled for violation of this Protocol.
- A student will be required to complete an Addiction Services (formerly AADAC) or like program before seeking reinstatement into school.

As part of the Protocol, legal charges will not be laid for possession of drugs unless the amount found is of sufficient quantity to indicate trafficking.

Partnership Roles & Responsibilities

Board of Trustees: The boards of both St. Albert school jurisdictions will work diligently to create and maintain a safe, caring and secure learning environment for all the students that they serve.

Students: All students are expected to comply with the *School Act* and the intent of the Drug Free Protocol. They will also be asked to sign a locker license, which states that their use of a school locker is subject to search at any time, by school personnel in accordance with the Protocol. Lockers will continue to be assigned through the school office.

Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians play an essential role in working with their school jurisdiction to develop appropriate student behaviour and conduct. As such, they are expected to be aware of board policy and regulations, and the school's expectations for student behaviour. Parents/guardians are viewed as partners in every aspect of their child's education, and schools welcome their participation in the resolution of emergent issues that affect their children.

Staff: School Administrators will work collaboratively with the RCMP to ensure staff, students and parents/guardians know what the Protocol entails and what the procedures will be. They will communicate with parents/guardians in a variety of ways on an annual basis. They will also be responsible to notify the parents/guardians of a student found in possession and under the influence of drugs at school.

RCMP: Members of the St. Albert detachment of the RCMP will participate in student and parent information sessions. When reasonable suspicion exists, the RCMP will conduct canine patrols with school administrators in all secondary schools, and provide assistance as required to school and system administration.



"Together, we can achieve the extraordinary."

Drug Free Protocol for St. Albert Schools 2018-2019

In June 1999, St. Albert Public Schools (formerly known as St. Albert Protestant Schools) and Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools entered into a formal agreement with the RCMP that permits the implementation of a Drug Free Protocol in St. Albert schools. The success of the two-year Drug Free Protocol pilot program led to the endorsement by both school jurisdictions to continue with the program.

The aim of the Drug Free Protocol is to support what schools and parents/guardians are already doing to reduce and eventually eliminate drugs in secondary schools. It reflects the wisdom of several stakeholder groups, and the "safe, caring and secure schools" philosophy that is shared by both school boards, Alberta Education and other educational organizations. The Protocol continues to provide leadership in the development of a community response to drug issues in St. Albert.

Our goal is to maintain the best possible learning environment for our students, settings in which they feel safe and secure, and where they can learn without hindrance.

A wise person once said, "You are more than a human being, you are a human becoming". We are sure that, as parents/guardians, you will share our goal for your children to grow and thrive in schools that enrich their journey into adulthood and responsible citizenship. As always, we welcome your support and value your encouragement.