



Department: Programs and Services
Section: Programs and Student Services

1. All Annapolis Valley Regional School Board school administrators shall receive in-service training and professional development on:
 - the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board Substance Use Policy and administrative procedures accompanying this policy;
 - legal aspects associated with substance use;
 - appropriate and effective substance use intervention strategies including recognition, assessment, referral, and treatment;
 - the characteristics of effective substance use educational and prevention programs;
 - the components of the Nova Scotia Public School Programs which apply to substance use;
 - the educational and professional development requirements of their teachers, counsellors and other staff;
 - developing community and interagency collaboration and partnerships.

This professional development training will be facilitated and coordinated by Annapolis Valley Regional School Board staff in collaboration with Addiction Service, Public Health, Community Police and other such agencies.

2. All teachers, counsellors, Programs and Services staff, and other para-educational school staff will receive training and professional development in the recognition of substance use among students, and appropriate intervention strategies.

In addition, those teachers and counsellors who are responsible for substance use education programs are to receive specific in-service and professional development in the areas of:

- the nature and characteristics of effective substance use educational programs;
 - leadership and facilitation of effective and age-appropriate educational programs current information about substance use, the effects and the “risk continuum”;
 - different educational program approaches for different student groups along the risk continuum (e.g. prevention, harm reduction, treatment referral).
3. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board will develop an assessment and evaluation process/model, utilizing evidence regarding effective best practices, to judge suitability of existing and newly developed “drug education” programs, curriculum materials and school presentations. Such programs, curriculum materials and presentations must receive approval for use in Annapolis Valley Regional School Board schools through this assessment and evaluation process.

4. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board will develop and/or select appropriate curriculum materials to support educational programs of the substance use policy. These materials will be provided to all Annapolis Valley Regional School Board schools.
5. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board in collaboration with Addiction Services, Public Health, Community Police, and other such agencies and organizations will develop a community/parent/guardian educational program regarding substance use.
6. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board in collaboration with other community agencies and organizations will develop a directory and inventory of resources, organizations, and individuals that schools can utilize in order to access support for educational programs on substance use.
7. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board will develop a model for a school intervention process or team to identify and address substance use issues/problems within the school setting. This model will emphasize a collaborative team approach utilizing resource persons from both the community and school.
8. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board will develop a process/model for, and support, the training of peer educators within AVRSB schools. Such a process/model will include describing the appropriate role and responsibilities for such peer educators.
9. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board will appoint or designate an AVRSB employee whose role will be to facilitate and coordinate the implementation and evaluation of the Substance Use Policy and to provide ongoing support for the substance use educational programs of schools within the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board. Additional duties will include the facilitation of school intervention teams, the training of peer educators, and liaison with other community and health agencies and organizations.
10. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board will seek to join with other community and health agencies and organizations to form an Interagency Steering Committee (ISC). The ISC will be responsible for developing lines of communication and means of collaboration among these various agencies and organizations; reviewing, evaluating and updating the Substance Use Policy; developing and assessing educational programs; developing support systems for teachers, students and parents regarding substance use issues/problems; and seeking funding opportunities to assist in the development of support systems and community resources.
11. Discipline measures and/or consequences for students as a result of substance use, possession of drugs/controlled substances, and sale or trafficking of controlled substances while at school or school-sponsored events shall be in accordance with the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board Code of Behaviour Policy (BP 402.7).

Monitoring:

- The Director of Programs and Services shall be responsible for the implementation, monitoring and revision of the administrative procedures.

- The Board's Education Committee, school principals, teachers, students and student governments, parents/guardians, and parental organizations including SAC's, PTA's and Home and Schools, and any other appropriate groups/individuals will be consulted when revisions of major significance are made to the policy and administrative procedures.
- This policy and its administrative procedures shall be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis.

Superintendent Approved: March 11/03
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Monitoring Date: Annually
Revised: