



Department: Programs and Services
Section: Programs and Student Services

The purpose of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board Substance Use Policy is to provide procedural standards in the areas of Prevention, Educational and Curricular Programs and Approaches, Discipline, and Avenues for Support (in and out of school). Specifically, this policy will provide guidelines and support for schools to address student substance use. A drug is defined as a substance, other than food, which affects the way the body or mind functions. From the Nova Scotia Student Drug Use Survey, we know that student drug use has increased over the past decade and that the top three adolescent drug choices are alcohol, cannabis and nicotine. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board acknowledges that there is a *continuum of student drug use which makes it necessary to find different approaches to address the needs of different groups of students. Approaches to prevention education, support and discipline need to vary, depending on developmental age, personal circumstances and experiences, and may need to include primary prevention, minimizing harms related to use and referral to treatment.

The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board believes the health, social, personal and legal well-being of students is of most importance and recognizes that the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs can impair individual students' well-being and interfere with their ability to learn and to function in society. The Board also acknowledges that student substance use, either on its property or at school-sponsored events, interferes with the academic and extra-curricular interests of students and schools. Therefore, the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board is committed to identifying and implementing effective strategies for positively affecting attitudes, behaviours and consequences related to substance use.

**Continuum:* students' substance use behaviours range from non-use with minimal consequences to use, which requires treatment intervention.

Specifically, the Board will provide:

- Procedural standards in the areas of prevention, education and curricular programs and approaches to student substance use issues
- Guidelines and support for schools to address student use

Monitoring:

- The Director of Programs and Services is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and revision of this policy.
- This policy will be monitored annually.

Board Approved: Apr 3/02
Ref: AP 402.9
Monitoring Date: Annually
Revised: