



Student Gambling Administrative Procedure 1.B.175

1.0 School Administration
1.B. Students

Board Governance Policy Cross Reference: 1, 2, 3, 16, 17

Legal Reference:

Date Adopted: October 2007

Date Amended:

The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba High School Survey (2004) noted that students who were identified as exhibiting problem gambling behaviors also demonstrated poor academic performance, an increase in delinquent behaviors, an increase in mental health issues (depression, anxiety) and an increase in substance use. "Gambling is risking money or other valuables on the outcome of a game, contest or event. The end result depends totally or partly on chance."

Evergreen School Division believes in school environments that are free from student gambling activities. This includes gambling during school sponsored activities off school property. It does not include school sanctioned fundraising events.

The goals of this administrative procedure are:

1. To promote a healthy school environment by minimizing harms related to gambling.
2. To develop awareness in students, parents and staff about the risks of youth gambling.
3. To develop interventions to assist students who are identified as at risk for problems related to gambling.

Gambling Definition:

Any gaming behaviour that involves the risking of money or valuables on the outcome of a game, contest or event. The outcome of the activity is partially or totally dependent on chance.

Signs of Problem Gambling may include:

- No longer having fun
- Borrowing money/owes money
- Lost friends due to gambling
- Decline in grades at school
- Legal problems
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts
- Poor relationship with family
- Increase in alcohol or other drug use

Student Gambling

The Division will address student gambling through:

Prevention – An educational process that encourages students to demonstrate knowledge, attitudes and skills related to decision making, risk taking, and harm reduction concerning gambling.

Intervention – An established process in which at risk individuals are identified and offered assistance.

Counseling and Rehabilitation – An organized support system for student involved with gambling.

Prevention of Student Gambling

All schools are required to implement the Phys Ed/Health Curriculum.

The Division supports awareness and prevention initiatives for students, parents and staff. This may include:

- a) School displays of awareness information like posters or pamphlets that promote responsible decision making about gambling, its risks and resources for help.
- b) Student information on the Division's position on student gambling and gambling risks, alternatives to gambling, harm reduction and resources for further information and help.
- c) Parent information on the Division's position on student gambling and gambling risks, alternatives to gambling, harm reduction and resources for further information and help.
- d) Staff training on the issue of youth and gambling, identifying at risk youth and appropriate interventions.

Intervention

Reporting

Student gambling at school or on any school sponsored activity is prohibited. All staff members are responsible for reporting students who engage in gambling at school to the school principal.

Disciplinary Measures

When a student is found to be gambling at school, the school principal will provide disciplinary measures.

- a) Principals may exercise discretion for students in Grades K-8.
- b) Principals will provide the following measures for students in Grades 9-12 (offences are considered cumulative in these grades):
 - i) First offence:
 - Contact and inform parents or guardians
(Note: students 18 years of age and older are legally responsible and notifying parents is not required).
 - Mandatory referral to complete a gambling assessment and awareness education with the AFM counselor.

- ii) Second offence:
 - Contact and inform parents or guardian.
 - Mandatory referral to the AFM counselor. (Refusal to participate in counseling will result in additional consequences.)
 - iii) Third offence:
 - Contact and inform parents or guardian.
 - Mandatory referral to the AFM counselor. (Refusal to participate in counseling will result in a suspension from school and all school activities.)
 - Report the incident and known details to the Superintendent.
- c) Parents or guardians or students age 18 and older may appeal a suspension of five (5) days or longer.

Counseling and Rehabilitation

When a student is suspected of gambling, the school will consult with parents or guardians and may recommend a gambling assessment or counseling that includes awareness education.

Principals will advise all staff that they are responsible for identifying students who engage in gambling at school. When a student is found to be gambling, the principal will refer the student to the AFM counselor.

Senior schools will cooperate with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba in offering the services of AFM Youth Counselors.

Staff Training

Staff training is necessary to address student gambling. Training should include:

- ◆ Staff attitudes and beliefs about gambling.
- ◆ Recognition of student gambling behaviours.
- ◆ Steps involved in the intervention process outlined above.
- ◆ Development of intervention skills and strategies.
- ◆ Reporting procedures.

Staff training may be provided through workshops or awareness sessions and is available on request from the AFM Youth Counselor.