

“Return to Learn”

At Risk Drug Intervention Support (ARDIS) Program

An in-school suspension and intervention program
for students suspended for drug or alcohol possession
or consumption while at school

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What is “At Risk Drug Intervention Support” (ARDIS)?

ARDIS is a school based intervention program for students who have been suspended for being under the influence of, or in possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol while on school premises.

Goals:

- Keep students in class and in school
- Provide counselling support and resources to students and parents
- Provide an opportunity for positive engagement with classroom teachers
- Have students complete all homework, assignments and tests before returning to class following the suspension

How does ARDIS work?

1. Student is found in possession of or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
2. Student meets with an administrator to determine the series of events and involvement of others.
3. Parents contacted.
4. Student is given a five-day suspension
5. Suspension letter drafted by secretary and a copy is given to the student or parents and a copy is sent to Student Services, at which time an ARDIS file is started for the student.
6. An email is sent to the teachers of the student with a request for homework to be taken to Student Services for the next day.
7. Student **reports to Student Services** for the **first** and **last day** of the five day suspension with a bagged lunch.
 - Student spends the entire time (of the first and last day of suspension) working in Student Services.
 - Student begins their suspension after school begins (9:00 a.m.) and leaves before classes end (3:00 p.m.)
8. Parents are requested to meet with the counsellor on either the first or last day of the suspension to discuss the ARDIS program. They are offered resources & support as appropriate.

9. Counselling session with both the student and parent is followed by an individual session with each when possible.
 - ADIS or AUDIT assessment administered with the student and results discussed (level of risk for addiction)
10. Subject teachers are invited to meet with student on either of the two days of the student's in-school suspension.
 - Counsellors utilize a variety of resources to work with ARDIS students.
 - A harm minimization approach follows, where counsellors work with students to develop an Action Plan for success in school & "Rules for Self" to minimize harm if the choice is continued substance use/abuse.
11. All work is completed in Student Services and supervised by a counsellor.
12. Follow up sessions with the student will be as needed and determined by the counsellor, in discussion with the student, parents, administration & teachers.
 - Career planning as a focus for providing additional support, is offered to each student in the ARDIS program. Follow up sessions are often focused mostly on academic and career planning to maintain a connection with students and to provide encouragement and support for continued success at school.
 - For students experiencing ongoing problems related to substance use, further intervention strategies may be initiated utilizing a variety of resources based on the specific needs of the student, and his/her motivation for change.