



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

POLICY – PO407

Smoke, Tobacco, and Vape Free Environment

Area: Operations

Source: Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities Services

Approved: January 5, 1998

Revised: February 10, 2014 (I); November 10, 2014; November 5, 2018 (I); May 6, 2019; March 3, 2025

1. Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) supports a comprehensive school-based and board level approach to health promotion and the prevention of the use of tobacco and cannabis products by students, staff, visitors, children/adults, parents/guardians/caregivers. The Board’s Smoke, Tobacco, and Vape Free Environment Administrative Procedure (AP407-1) makes it illegal to use, sell or supply tobacco or cannabis products to another person while on school/board property at any time, in accordance with the Smoke Free Ontario Act (SFOA).

2. Definitions

Cannabis (*Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*) – cannabis has the same meaning as in subsection 2(1) of the Cannabis Act (Canada).

Electronic Cigarette (e-cigarette) (*Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*) – a vaporizer or inhalant-type device, whether called an electronic cigarette or any other name, that contains a power source and heating element designed to heat a substance and produce a vapour intended to be inhaled by the user of the device directly through the mouth, whether or not the vapour contains nicotine.

Tobacco Product (*Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*) - any product that contains tobacco, and includes the package in which tobacco is sold.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to comply with the Smoke Free Ontario Act (SFOA) as enacted on October 17, 2017, which is part of a provincial, comprehensive strategy to prevent young people from:

- the initiation and increased use of tobacco and vapour products;
- protect people from second-hand exposure to smoke and vapour;
- motivate and support people to successfully quit using tobacco; and
- identify and reduce disparities in tobacco use and related harms.

The ultimate goal of this policy and its attendant administrative procedure is to prevent and reduce smoking/vaping, tobacco and cannabis use among students, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers and visitors.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all board owned property and locations accessed by students, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers and visitors.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board acknowledges that:

- 5.1.1 community partnerships such as with the Durham Region Health Department with respect to the enforcement of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act 2017, are valuable regarding promoting healthy work, learning and community environments;
- 5.1.2 it is a priority to ensure the Board's working and learning environments are healthy and safe;
- 5.1.3 reducing smoking/vaping, tobacco and cannabis use among our youth is a priority;
- 5.1.4 the inclusion of tobacco in Indigenous cultures and practices in schools plays a role in supporting and engaging Indigenous staff, students and their families.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education, or designate, shall issue administrative procedure(s) to support this policy, and amended them thereafter as the need may arise.
- 6.2 Subject to section 5.1.4, the use of all tobacco and cannabis products is prohibited on all Board premises, in accordance with the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017.

- 6.3 There will be no designated smoking or vaping areas provided on any Board premises. Employees and visitors who choose to smoke or vape must do so off Board premises and in accordance with local By-Laws.
- 6.4 Signs indicating that Board buildings are smoke and vape free will be posted in and around all buildings.
- 6.5 The application form for Community Use of Schools shall indicate that buildings and property are smoke and vape free.
- 6.6 Anyone accessing Board owned property and locations are required to adhere to this policy and its attendant administrative procedure.
- 6.7 Supervisors and managers are responsible for enforcing this policy and ensuring employees are aware of the policy and procedure requirements.
- 6.8 Employees are expected to report any violations of this policy and its attendant procedure to their supervisor.
- 6.9 Employees are encouraged to access the Board's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for information on available cessation resources.

7. Sources

- 7.1 [Smoke Free Ontario Act](#)
- 7.2 [Education Act](#)
- 7.3 [Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)
- 7.4 [Youth Criminal Justice Act](#)
- 7.5 [Smoke-Free Schools Enforcement Protocol](#)
- 7.6 [Policy/Program Memorandum 128: The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct](#)
- 7.7 [Policy/Program Memorandum 145: Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour](#)
- 7.8 [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action](#)
- 7.9 [Cannabis Act \(Canada\)](#)

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 [Smoke, Tobacco, and Vape Free Environment Administrative Procedure \(AP407-1\)](#)
- 8.2 [Student Discipline Policy \(PO611\)](#)
- 8.3 [Student Discipline Administrative Procedure \(AP611-1\)](#)
- 8.4 [Code of Conduct Policy \(PO610\)](#)
- 8.5 [Code of Conduct Administrative Procedure \(AP610-1\)](#)