



# Policy

Title: <b>Smoke and Tobacco Free Environment</b>	Policy #: <b>PO407</b>
Policy Area:	Operations
Source:	Superintendent of Education – Policy Development
Date Approved:	January 5, 1998
Dates of Amendment:	Feb. 10, 2014 (Interim); Nov. 10, 2014; Nov. 5, 2018 (Interim); May 6, 2019

## 1.0 Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School 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, parents, visitors and children/adults, parents/guardians, spectators and staff associated with a Community Use of Schools permit. In order to provide a healthy, comfortable and productive environment, all board owned schools, work places, property and vehicles shall be smoke-free. The (SFOA Act) makes it illegal to use, sell or supply tobacco or cannabis to another person while on school property and no person shall smoke or hold lighted tobacco, cannabis or e-cigarettes at school or on school property at all times 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

## 2.0 Definitions

**Electronic (E) cigarettes** – 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.

**Flavoured tobacco products** – is a tobacco product that:

- has an aroma or taste other than tobacco that is apparent either before or during use, or both, and includes a tobacco product that has an aroma or taste resulting from one or more additives, including but not limited to, candy, chocolate, fruit, spice, herb, alcohol or vanilla additives;
- that is, by its packaging, labelling, advertising or otherwise, represented as being flavoured, or
- that is designated in the regulations as a flavoured tobacco product.

**Medical Cannabis** – cannabis that is obtained for medical purposes in accordance with applicable federal law or as provided for in the regulations.

## 2.0 Definitions (Cont'd)

**Medical Cannabis User** – an individual who is authorized to possess cannabis for the individual's own medical purposes in accordance with applicable federal law or as provided for in the regulations.

**Tobacco products** – products that contain, or are made from tobacco and include but are not limited to:

- Cigarettes
- Cigars
- Cigarillos (small thin cigars)
- Pipe tobacco
- Beedi/Bidis (a thin cigarette)
- Loose tobacco (sold in pouches)
- Snuff (dry or moist tobacco)
- Snus (smokeless tobacco)
- Any flavoured tobacco product

**Smokeless Tobacco** is also called spit tobacco, chewing tobacco, chew, dip and plug. Smokeless tobacco is sold in four forms as follows:

- **chew:** a leafy form sold in pouches offered in several flavours.
- **plug:** is a chew tobacco that has been pressed into a small brick shape.
- **snuff:** is a powdered, moist form of tobacco sold in tins.
- **snus:** is a form of moist snuff which may be packaged in small bags like tea bags.

**School** as defined in the Education Act, RSO 1990, Chapter E.2. is:

- the body of elementary school pupils or secondary school pupils that is organized as a unit for educational purposes under the jurisdiction of the appropriate board, or
- the body of pupils enrolled in any of the elementary or secondary school courses of study in an educational institution operated by the Government of Ontario, and includes the teachers and other staff members associated with the unit or institution and the lands and premises used in connection with the unit or institution.

## 3.0 Purpose

- 3.1 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 policy shall provide the framework for the creation of an administrative procedure and protocol to be used at all board owned sites and property when dealing with smoking, tobacco and cannabis use. The ultimate goal of this policy and administrative procedure is to prevent and reduce smoking, tobacco and cannabis use among students, staff, parents and visitors.

## 4.0 Application/Scope

- 4.1 This policy applies to all board owned property and locations accessed by students, staff, parents and visitors.

## 5.0 Principles

- 5.1 The Board believes 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 in regards to promoting healthy work environments and assisting schools with educating the public about the ill effects of tobacco, e-cigarette or cannabis use.
  - 5.1.2 The health and safety of our students and staff is a priority in making our work environments comfortable and productive.
  - 5.1.3 Reducing smoking, tobacco and cannabis use among our youth is a priority

## 6.0 Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education shall:
- 6.1.1 Ensure signs indicating that Board buildings are “Smoke Free” will be posted in all buildings.
  - 6.1.2 Ensure the application form for Community Use of Schools shall indicate that buildings and property are “smoke free”.
  - 6.1.3 Ensure all applicants for positions with the Board will be advised of the “smoke free” environment policy.
  - 6.1.4 Issue administrative procedures to support this policy and to amend it thereafter as the need may arise.
  - 6.1.5 Ensure that the Smoke-Free Schools Enforcement Protocol established in partnership with the Durham Region Health Department is disseminated to all staff.

## 7.0 Sources

- Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017
- Education Act
- Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Youth Criminal Justice Act
- Smoke-Free Schools Enforcement Protocol

## 8.0 **Related Policies and Administrative Procedures**

- Smoke and Tobacco Free Environment Administrative Procedure (AP407-1)
- Student Discipline Policy (PO611)
- Student Discipline Administrative Procedure (AP611-1)
- Code of Conduct Policy (PO610)
- Code of Conduct Administrative Procedure (AP610-1)