



HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC

District School Board

Smoking and Vaping on Property Under the Board's Jurisdiction

Adopted:	October 26, 1998	Policy #:	P 2.1.13.
Revised:	September 22, 2025	Policy Category:	2.1. School Operations

BELIEF STATEMENT

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is committed to safe, healthy, and faith-filled learning environments. Guided by Gospel values, we believe caring for our bodies honours the dignity of every person as created by God.

This policy adheres to all pertinent statutes and regulations and prohibits the use, possession, or supply of tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products on school property, at school events, and within designated smoke and vape free zones. We aim to protect health, promote positive choices, and model behaviours that reflect our Catholic identity.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board recognizes that the use of tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products poses serious health risks. The trustees, administrators, and staff of the Board are expected to provide strong leadership to ensure that the harmful health effects of both direct and second-hand smoke are minimized, and that students under our care are actively discouraged from using tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products, including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

PROCEDURE:

The Use, Supply or Possession of Tobacco, Vaping Products, and Cannabis

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* prohibits smoking, holding lit tobacco or cannabis (medical or recreational), and using an e-cigarette to vape any substance in certain areas. All Board buildings, vehicles, school grounds, vehicles parked on the grounds, and public areas within 20 metres of the school property are designated smoke and vape free environments. This prohibition applies to all Board employees, students, and visitors at all times, during and outside classroom hours. Not complying with the Act is an offence and legal action may be taken.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act makes it illegal for anyone to sell or supply tobacco or vaping products to any person under 19 years of age. In addition, possession of these products on school property or at school events - whether lit, open, or in use - constitutes a breach of the School Code of Conduct. Such matters are governed under PPM 128 and PPM 145 and corresponding Board policies, and the principal may, at their discretion, notify the Huron Perth Public Health Unit.

The use of tobacco or vaping products, and smoking/vaping of cannabis on Board property, schools, school grounds, within 20 meters of school grounds and out of classroom programs,

activities, and facilities approved by or under the jurisdiction of the Board is not permitted. **The use, sale, or supply of tobacco, vaping products, or cannabis is strictly prohibited on Board property, within 20 metres of school grounds, and at any Board-approved programs, activities, or facilities.**

Related information will be communicated orally and/or in writing by the principal or designate to all students and parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year, and by signage or symbol to all visitors. This initial communication will serve as the first warning.

The principal will ensure that **“No Smoking/No Vaping”** signage a no smoking/no vaping sign is posted at all entrances and exits to the school, washrooms, and property in accordance with the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*.

Offence Process

For an offence of smoking, holding lit tobacco or cannabis, using a vaping product, or supplying tobacco or vaping products on school property during a school year, witnessed and verified by a Board employee, the principal or designate will:

1. Confiscate the product.
2. Complete the Smoke-Free Ontario Act Notification [eForm](#), which will communicate said incident to a Tobacco Enforcement Officer at Huron Perth Public Health.
3. Forward a prescribed letter of concern (Appendices “A” and “B”) stating the specific offence to:
 - The student (if 18 years of age or older), or
 - The student’s parent/guardian.

The Tobacco Enforcement Officer may proceed with legal action.

Whether or not the Tobacco Enforcement Officer proceeds, the principal or designate may administer disciplinary measures deemed appropriate, up to and including suspension, as per the Progressive Discipline Policy.

Violations

Violations may include, but are not limited to:

- a) smoking or holding lit tobacco or consuming tobacco products;
- b) using a vaping product;
- c) smoking or holding lit cannabis;
- d) selling or supplying a tobacco, cannabis or vaping product to a person under the age of 19 on school property.
- e) Being in possession of tobacco, cannabis, or vaping products on school property or at school events, regardless of whether the product is lit, open, or in use. In cases where this violation occurs, the principal may, at their discretion, notify the Huron Perth Public Health Unit. However, this conduct constitutes a breach of the School Code of Conduct and does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017. This matter is governed by the provisions outlined in Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 128: The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct and PPM 145: Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour and the corresponding board policies.

Preventive Education

The goal of a preventive education program is to reduce the number of students who use tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products and to reduce the number of tobacco and vaping products being supplied to those under the age of 19 years. The Board will implement a preventive education curriculum and associated activities to encourage students to make decisions that promote a healthy lifestyle. .

The preventive education program shall begin at the primary division and extend through the Ontario secondary school curriculum.

Disciplinary Action

A goal of disciplinary action is to protect the health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors and to deter students from using or supplying tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products by deferring students from using tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products and/or supplying tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products on Board property or at Board sponsored events.

Disciplinary action is also intended to confront students with the consequences of their actions and to encourage the adoption of healthy, substance-free lifestyles. At minimum, in the case of these substances being found in the possession of students, parents must be notified, and the student must surrender the item(s) to the educator or administrator. As per PPM 145, it is expected that students involved in these incidents would receive support to learn from inappropriate behaviours and make choices that support continuing their learning, as well as to encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Tobacco and Nicotine Products:** Includes cigarettes, electronic cigarettes (vaping devices)
- **Prohibited Items:** Items that are banned within the school environment, including tobacco, nicotine products, alcohol, illegal drugs, and personal mobile devices when used in violation of the policy.
- **Smoking Product:** Any substance whose primary purpose is to be burned or heated to produce vapours, gases, or smoke, which may be inhaled, and shall include but is not limited to tobacco, non-tobacco herbal shisha, cannabis or any other substance
- **Vaping Product:** An electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), an e-substance or any component of an e-cigarette. An e-cigarette is a vapourizer or inhalant-type device that contains a power source and heating element designed to heat a substance and produce a vapour intended to be inhaled by the user whether or not the vapour contains nicotine
- **Cannabis:** Cannabis means any part of the cannabis plant as defined within the Cannabis Control Act, 2017

REFERENCES:

- [PPM 128](#)
- [PPM 145](#)
- [Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#)
- [Cannabis Control Act, 2017](#)
- Progressive Discipline Policy
- Board School Code of Conduct

RESOURCES, APPENDICES AND FORMS:

- Appendix A - School Issued Letter Following an Offence - Smoking/Vaping on School Property
- Appendix B - School Issued Letter Following an Offence - Supplying Tobacco and Vaping Products to Minors
- [Smoke-Free Ontario Act School Incident Report Form](#)
- [The HPCDB Educator Resource Site](#)