

Tobacco-Free Schools and Workplaces Policy

Policy Overview

The Halifax Regional School Board is committed to providing healthy learning and work environments for all students, employees, volunteers, and visitors. It is also dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyle choices for students.

The Board acknowledges that health-related problems can arise from use and exposure to tobacco and tobacco products including electronic cigarettes and wishes to help protect and promote the health of all students, staff, volunteers and visitors by creating smoke-free schools, workplaces, vehicles, and properties.

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Legislative context**
- 2.0 Principles**
- 3.0 Aboriginal Rights**
- 4.0 Authorization**
- 5.0 Policy Review**

Appendix A – Definitions

Policy History

- Policy approved November 26, 2002 and effective January 1, 2003

1.0 Legislative Context

- 1.1 Nova Scotia Smoke-Free Places Act, 2015
- 1.2 Nova Scotia Tobacco Access Act, 2015
- 1.3 Nova Scotia Education Act, 2014
- 1.4 Nova Scotia Provincial School Code of Conduct, 2015
- 1.5 HRSB Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Smudging Guidelines

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Effective January 1, 2003

Revised: May 25, 2016

2.0 Principles

- 2.1 The use of tobacco or tobacco products in schools and school board offices is prohibited at all times.
- 2.2 The use of tobacco or tobacco products on all school grounds and within 4 metres of any school property is prohibited at all times.
- 2.3 The use of tobacco or tobacco products within 4 metres of any school board office is prohibited at all times.
- 2.4 The use of tobacco or tobacco products is prohibited on school busses and all vehicles belonging to the Halifax Regional School Board.
- 2.5 The use of tobacco or tobacco products is prohibited in all vehicles while on school property.
- 2.6 All efforts will be made to inform students, staff, volunteers, and visitors of the prohibition of smoking in all buildings, properties, and vehicles of the Halifax Regional School Board.
- 2.7 The use of tobacco or tobacco products by students, staff, and volunteers is prohibited at all school-related events.
- 2.8 In the case of extended school trips, any person responsible for the students' well-being is not permitted to smoke in the presence of the students.
- 2.9 The use of tobacco or tobacco products is prohibited by anyone transporting students to or from school events, and while in the presence of students during those events.
- 2.10 Tobacco company sponsorship of school-related initiatives is not permitted and all students and employees are discouraged from wearing clothing that advertises tobacco products.
- 2.11 Advertising and promotion for tobacco-funded events is not permitted in schools or school board offices.
- 2.12 In accordance with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy, the use of tobacco or tobacco products by students on school premises and at school-related events will be treated as an Unacceptable Behaviour.

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- 2.13 Any person suspected of selling, distributing, or in any way dispensing tobacco or tobacco products to students will be addressed in accordance with the Nova Scotia Tobacco Access Act.

3.0 Aboriginal Rights

- 3.1 Nothing in this policy affects the rights of aboriginal people respecting traditional aboriginal spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies.

4.0 Authorization

- 4.1 The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement procedures in support of this policy.

5.0 Policy Review

- 5.1 This policy will be reviewed every five (5) years or on an as needed basis.

Appendix A

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy,

- Tobacco as defined under the *Revenue Act* means tobacco in any form, whether consumed by smoking, by chewing or as snuff;
- Tobacco products as defined under the Tobacco Access Act means a cigarette paper, cigarette tube, cigarette filter, cigarette maker, cigarette holder or pipe;
- School is defined as all school sites;
- School board offices are defined as all other Halifax Regional School Board facilities;
- Smoke as defined in the *Nova Scotia Smoke-Free Act* means smoke, inhale or exhale smoke from, burn, carry, hold or otherwise have control over a lit or heated cigarette, cigar, pipe, water pipe, electronic cigarette or other device that burns or heats tobacco or another substance that is intended to be smoked or inhaled;
- Electronic cigarette as defined in the *Tobacco Access Act* means a vaporizer or inhalant-type device, whether called an electronic cigarette or any other name, containing a power source and heating element designed to heat a substance and produce a vapour intended to be inhaled and includes all components used in conjunction with the device, including the e-liquid, cartridge and any other component that may be sold separately from the device itself.

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