

TOBACCO AND VAPOUR PRODUCTS FREE ENVIRONMENT

Background

The District concurs with evidence that smoking is a severe threat to the current and future health of all individuals. The District, through enhanced education programs, is committed to promoting the continued health and well-being of all of its students and staff members.

The District continues to value positive role-modeling by teachers, staff and parents, but recognizes that some people will choose to smoke and seeks their cooperation in the implementation of this administrative procedure.

The District also recognizes that the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act 2016 prohibits smoking, using tobacco, or holding lighted tobacco, in or on school property except for the purposes outlined in section 2.2(3) of the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act 2016*. The Act also prohibits the use of an e-cigarette or holding an activated e-cigarette on school property.

Procedures

1. Tobacco means tobacco leaves or products produced from tobacco in any form or for any use.
2. Vapour product means e-cigarette or similar device.
3. All school property is designated “tobacco and vapour product free”. Therefore, every person, including a student, employee or visitor, is prohibited from smoking, using tobacco or vapour products of any kind, or holding lighted tobacco on school property at any time, including non-school hours.
4. School property includes all property owned or leased by, or operated under the authority of the board, and includes the maintenance yard, school board office property and district owned, or district leased vehicles.
5. Privately owned or privately leased vehicles driven by District employees when used for the purpose of transporting students or when used for the purposes of delivering educational programs or other learning programs, shall be “tobacco and vapour products free”.
6. The District prohibits smoking or using vapour products in private vehicles which are parked on or traveling on school property owned or leased by or operated under the authority of the board.
7. Schools will advise volunteer drivers to refrain from smoking or using vapour products while transporting students on school events.
8. The District shall post appropriate signage to inform parents and other visitors of this administrative procedure.
9. Schools shall inform parents, students, employees and the community of this administrative procedure (i.e., via parent newsletters, school agenda books, school websites, etc.).

10. Intervention and education programs shall incorporate many avenues of information regarding smoking cessation including, but not limited to, the Fraser Health Unit, the B.C. Lung Association, the Canadian Cancer Society, etc. Programs shall begin in elementary schools.
11. Enforcement of this administrative procedure with students shall attempt to be educational. Enforcement may involve the services of the regional health authority.
12. Staff who violate this administrative procedure may face disciplinary action.
13. Visitors who violate this administrative procedure will be told to refrain from the conduct or leave the premises.

Reference: Section 65, 85, School Act
Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act 2016

Last revised: June 2021