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**Subject:** Tobacco-Free Schools  
**Effective:** March 9, 1998  
**Revised:** July 1, 2001; September 6, 2005; June 2015; October 18, 2018

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### 1.0 PURPOSE

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This policy is to provide tobacco-free learning environments for public school students and to assist them in making healthy choices.

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### 2.0 APPLICATION

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This policy applies to all persons on public school premises and in school vehicles, including vehicles parked on school premises.

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### 3.0 DEFINITIONS

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**Comprehensive School Health** is an approach to school-based health promotion involving a broad spectrum of programs, activities, and services which take place in schools and their surrounding communities. Such actions are designed not only to affect the health of individual students but also to change the environment in which they live and learn. Comprehensive school health is an integrated approach to health that incorporates four components: (1) social and physical environment, (2) teaching and learning, (3) healthy school policy and (4) partnerships and services.

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**Public school premises** include all school buildings and school properties (as defined by the *Education Act* and *Regulation 2001-51*), leased by, or otherwise furnished to, the Minister and used for the provision of public education to students.

**School personnel** as per the *Education Act*, school personnel means a) superintendents, Senior Education Officers and other administrative and supervisory personnel, b) school bus drivers, c) building maintenance personnel, including custodians, d) secretaries and clerks, e) teachers, f) persons other than teachers engaged to assist in the delivery of programs and services to students, g) and other persons engaged in support areas such as social services, health services, psychology and guidance.

**School vehicle** means a motor vehicle operated by a school district or under a conveyance contract for the conveyance of pupils in the public school system and excludes motor vehicles in a public transit system.

**Tobacco** means any form of tobacco or tobacco-like product, including, cigarettes, cigars, pipe, fine cut tobacco, as well as smokeless tobacco items such as electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) with or without nicotine, chewing tobacco and snuff.

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#### 4.0 LEGAL AUTHORITY

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Education Act, section

6(b.2) *The Minister may establish provincial policies and guidelines related to public education within the scope of this Act.*

Cannabis Control Act, section

19 *Despite any other provision of this Act or the regulations, no person shall smoke cannabis or medical use cannabis in a place where smoking is prohibited under the Smoke-free Places Act.*

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#### 5.0 GOALS / PRINCIPLES

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- 5.1 The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recognizes that the use and exposure to tobacco have shown to negatively impact the health of both users and non-users alike.
- 5.2 The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development believes that a comprehensive school health approach can help students learn and foster healthy lifestyles by providing them with knowledge, skills, social supports and environmental reinforcement. This approach will help prevent the use of tobacco, protect non-users from second-hand smoke, assist those who wish to cease using tobacco and encourage students and school personnel to refrain from using tobacco or tobacco-like devices, such as e-cigarettes.
- 5.3 The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development believes that learning in a tobacco-free environment and modeling healthy behaviours can help guide students in making healthy lifestyle choices.

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#### 6.0 REQUIREMENTS / STANDARDS

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- 6.1 The use of tobacco, as defined in this policy and in the Smoke-free Places Act, including e-cigarettes, is prohibited at all times:
- on all school premises,
  - in schools vehicles (i.e., vehicles used by school districts for transporting students), and
  - in vehicles on school premises.
- 6.2 The superintendent and/or the principal must ensure that:
- required signs are posted, in keeping with the specifications of the Smoke-free Places Act;

- community use agreements reflect clearly that the use of tobacco is prohibited at all times and in all areas of school premises, including in vehicles parked on school grounds;
- tobacco company sponsorship of school-related initiatives is not permitted; and
- complaints received about the use of tobacco on school premises are addressed, as appropriate.

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**7.0 GUIDELINES / RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**7.1** Schools should:

- Advise students, parents, school personnel and others who come onto school premises that the use of tobacco is not permitted.
- Work with students, school personnel, parents and school neighbours to find alternative options for students and school personnel who use tobacco.
- Ensure the school's approach and any sanctions associated with the use of tobacco on school premises are well-communicated to students, parents, school personnel and others.

**7.2** Schools should ensure school personnel is able to field questions about the school's approach to:

- students who use tobacco on school premises (supports available and discipline);
- students/school personnel using tobacco off school premises (what are the rules that have been communicated to students, parents and school personnel), and
- complaints (what steps will the school take to follow-up on complaints);

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**8.0 DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL POLICYMAKING**

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Not applicable.

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**9.0 REFERENCES**

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Policy 315 – School/Community Partnerships and Sponsorships

Policy 703 – Positive Learning and Working Environment

Smoke-free Places Act (information line – 1-866-234-4234)

Regulation 2004-99 under the Smoke-free Places Act.

Cannabis Control Act

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**10.0 CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Policy and Planning Branch  
(506) 453-3090

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Student Services Branch  
(506) 453-2816

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