

**THE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE**

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE:

Smoke Free Environment

SECTION/CODE:

School Operations D – 17

APPROVAL DATE:

July 9, 2024

SUPERSEDES:

May 8, 2023

NUMBER OF PAGES:

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REVIEW DATE:

May 2027

POLICY STATEMENT

The Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene (PSSBP) endeavours to provide and maintain learning and working environments which safeguard the health and welfare of students, employees, and members of the public. Such environments are free from the harmful effects of tobacco use, second-hand smoke from tobacco, vaping products, emerging products and accessories, and uphold provincial laws.

PURPOSE

To provide clarity on the requirements of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA)* which prohibits smoking and holding of lit tobacco and tobacco-related products and the use of any electronic cigarettes (including vaping products and devices) on Board and school property and at all Board and school-sponsored events at any time.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. This policy applies:
 - to all Board employees, students, trustees, contractors, parents/guardians, permit holders and visitors on School Board property including personal vehicles on school property
 - at all times to vehicles owned or used by the Board
 - while at off-property locations for School Board and school-related events e.g., field trips
 - to any person or group on School Board property for non-school related activities

2. This policy prohibits the use of Tobacco Industry Products: any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human use or consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means., but does not apply to regulated products intended for use in tobacco cessation. Tobacco industry products also include electronic products and emerging products such as, but not limited to, electronic cigarettes, cigars or pipes whether or not they contain nicotine.

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3. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, prohibits smoking (tobacco and cannabis) and the use of electronic cigarettes (vaping) at schools, on school grounds, and all public areas within 20 metres of these grounds.
4. If students are found in possession of these substances, parents must be notified, and the student must surrender the item(s) to the educator or administrator.
5. Students involved in these incidents would receive support to learn from inappropriate behaviours and make choices that support continuing their learning.
6. Consequences for students who repeat such infractions will be dealt with based on policy D-51B Safe and Accepting Schools - Progressive Discipline Regarding Students.
7. This policy permits the use of the following:
 - Regulated Tobacco Cessation Products: Tobacco cessation products that are supported through clinical studies and have undergone regulatory scrutiny through Health Canada. Examples include nicotine replacement therapies such as the patch, gum, inhaler, lozenges, mouth spray, and prescription medications. It is the responsibility of the user of these products to ensure that the product is safe and secured on their body (away from other students).
 - Sacred Tobacco: The traditional use of smoke and tobacco that forms part of indigenous culture and spirituality, when used for such purposes.
8. The Board shall ensure the Board policy, its guidelines and related procedures have been communicated to all permit, contract and lease holders.