

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

**POLICY MANUAL**

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**POLICY TITLE:  
SECTION/CODE:**

**Smoke Free Environment**

**School Operations D – 17**

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<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>	<b>SUPERSEDES:</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PAGES:</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>
<b>OCTOBER 5, 2020</b>	<b>DECEMBER 7, 2015</b>	<b>PAGE 1 OF 5</b>	<b>OCTOBER 2024</b>

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**PURPOSE**

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 the smoking of cannabis (medical and recreational) and uphold provincial laws.

**POLICY**

This policy is primarily governed by the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA)*, 2017 and the *Electronic Cigarettes Act*, 2015 which prohibit smoking and holding of lit tobacco and tobacco-related products, cannabis (medical and recreational) and the use of any electronic cigarettes (including vaping products and devices) on school property at any time.

It is the policy of the PSSBP to prohibit smoking and the use of tobacco products, cannabis (medical and recreational), emerging tobacco industry products (e.g. e-cigarettes and vaporizers), and any smoking or vaping paraphernalia. This applies to all School Board employees, students, trustees, contractors, parents/guardians, volunteers, permit holders, and visitors on School Board property (including while in personal vehicles on school property. This policy applies at all times to vehicles owned or used by the School Board). This policy applies while at off-property locations for School Board and school-related events (e.g. field trips). It also applies to any person or group on School Board property for non-school related activities (e.g. event permit holders, community sports).

**GUIDELINES**

1. To establish and maintain learning and working environments which safeguard the health and welfare of PSSBP students, employees and the public. This will be done by ensuring that environments are free from tobacco use and second-hand smoke from tobacco, cannabis (medical and recreational) and vaping products as well as emerging tobacco industry products and uphold the law to the broader community.
2. Prohibiting the use of tobacco, tobacco industry, cannabis and related products including e-cigarettes and other devices on PSSBP property denormalizes the use of these

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products and supports healthy living and decision-making by ensuring they are less visible, less acceptable and less desirable.

3. It is the responsibility of all members of the school community to ensure they do not carry, smoke, or vape on School Board property (including in personal vehicles on School Board property) and/or at off-property locations for School Board and school-related events.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

1. **Electronic Cigarettes (e-cigarettes):** A vaporizer or inhalant-type device, whether called an electronic cigarette or any other name, that contains a power source and heating element designed to heat a substance and produce a vapour intended to be inhaled by the user.
2. **Individuals on Board Premises:** Anyone on school/School Board property or buildings at any time regardless of the day of the week and regardless of reason for being on school property, includes students, employees, trustees, contractors, parents/guardians, volunteers, permit holders and all others who are invited to or who work on board property and in Board-operated buildings.
3. **Off-Property Locations:** Includes sites where educational activities or school events are taking place (e.g. day and overnight field trips, sporting events etc.) that are not considered PSSBP properties.
4. **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

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of these products to ensure that the product is safe and secured on their body (away from other students).

5. Sacred Tobacco: The traditional use of smoke and tobacco that forms part of indigenous culture and spirituality, when used for such purposes.
6. School Board Property: All school/School Board buildings and surrounding property owned by the PSSBP, including School Board owned vehicles, machinery (such as lawnmowers) and private vehicles on Board property.
7. Smoke Free Learning and Working Environment: An environment that is free of smoke and vapour that is a by-product of smoking or vaping any type of tobacco or other tobacco-related or emerging product.
8. Smoking Paraphernalia: Any equipment, product, or material that is used or associated with the use of tobacco or other legal or illegal products and devices. Smoking paraphernalia does not include regulated products for use in tobacco cessation.
9. 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.
10. Smoking: Inhaling and/or exhaling or holding lighted tobacco or cannabis (medical or recreational).
11. Vaping: Inhaling and/or exhaling vapour from an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or holding an activated e-cigarette, whether or not the vapour contains nicotine.

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**RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

1. [Smoke-Free Ontario Act \(SMOA\), 2017](#)
2. [Education Act 1990](#)
3. [Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2015](#)
4. Cannabis Control Act (Ontario)

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. It is the responsibility of the PSSBP to be in compliance with all aspects of the *Smoke Free Ontario Act (SFOA)*. The PSSBP prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products, cannabis (medical or recreational), emerging tobacco industry products, tobacco-related products (e.g. e-cigarettes and vaporizers), and any smoking paraphernalia. This applies to all students, School Board employees, and any other individuals on School Board premises.
  1. The Board shall ensure that the Board policy, its guidelines and related procedures have been communicated to all permit, contract and lease holders.
  2. The Board ensures that all forms of tobacco and cannabis and related products are strictly prohibited on Board property.
  3. All individuals on School Board premises must refrain from smoking and holding lit tobacco, consuming or using tobacco products, cannabis (medical or recreational), emerging tobacco industry products, and tobacco related products on PSSBP property, in personal vehicles on school Board property, and when at off property locations during School Board and school related events.
  4. The Acts also stipulates the following:

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- a. ensuring employees, students, and visitors are aware of the smoking and vaping prohibitions, including not smoking or vaping within 20 metres of the school grounds;
- b. posting appropriate signage at all entrances, exits, and other locations in order to inform everyone that smoking/vaping is prohibited;
- c. ensuring that a person, who does not comply with the Act, does not remain on the property
- d. Failure to comply with the Smoke Free Ontario Act (including smoking and vaping) may include fines and/or discipline.