

# **THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)**

## **POLICY**

## **TOBACCO/CANNABIS/VAPING FREE DISTRICT**

### **SECTION 2.1**

#### **RATIONALE**

The Board recognizes that the use of tobacco/cannabis/vaping products is a health and safety hazard for students, employees, visitors and school facilities.

The Board believes that the use of tobacco/cannabis/vaping products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities on school property or at school related or school sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff and visitors.

The Board acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students.

The Board recognizes that it has an obligation to promote positive role models in schools and promote a healthy learning and working environment, free from unwanted smoke and tobacco/cannabis/vaping use by students, employees and visitors on school property.

Finally, the Board recognizes that it has legal obligations pursuant to federal and provincial legislation.

It is unlawful, and subject to fines for contraventions under the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act and the BC Cannabis Control and Licencing Act to:

- use tobacco/cannabis/vaping products on school property; Section 2.2 (2)
- permit tobacco/cannabis/vaping product use on school property; Section 2.2 (4)
- sell tobacco/cannabis/vaping products to a person under 19 years of age; Section 2 (2)
- fail to display prohibition order sign; Section 10.1 (a)
- permit tobacco/cannabis/vaping product use in workplace. Section 2.3 (4)

#### **TOBACCO/CANNABIS/VAPOR USE PROHIBITED**

1. No student, staff or school visitor is permitted to use any tobacco/cannabis/vaping products at any time including non-school hour. The holding of a lighted tobacco/cannabis/vaping product and/or activated e-cigarette is also prohibited:
  - In any building, facility or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the School District.
  - On any school grounds and property – including athletic fields and parking lots – owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the School District.
  - At any school sponsored or school related event, on or off school property.

- On any public property neighbouring the school, which is within six (6) meters of doorways, open windows and/or air intakes to the school.
2. In addition, School District employees, school volunteers, contractors or other persons performing services on behalf of the School District are prohibited from using tobacco/cannabis/vaping products at any time while on duty and in the presence of students, either on or off school grounds.
  3. Tobacco/cannabis/vaping products may be included in instructional or research activities in public school buildings if the activity is conducted or supervised by the staff member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking, chewing or otherwise ingestion of tobacco/cannabis/vaping products or directly exposing either student or staff to the health hazards of tobacco/cannabis/vaping.

## **DEFINITION OF TOBACCO/CANNABIS/VAPING PRODUCTS AND TOBACCO/CANNABIS/VAPING USE**

For the purpose of this policy:

- “Tobacco/Cannabis/Vaping Product” is defined to include cigarettes, e-cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), cigars, bidis, pipes, little cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, edibles, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco/cannabis/vaping or tobacco/cannabis/vaping products.
- “Tobacco/cannabis/vaping use” includes smoking, chewing, dipping, ingesting, or any other use of tobacco/cannabis/vaping.

## **SIGNAGE**

Signs will be posted in a manner and location that adequately notifies students, staff and visitors about the 100 percent Tobacco/Cannabis/Vaping Free District Policy.

## **ENFORCEMENT FOR STUDENTS**

1. Consequences for students engaging in the prohibited behaviour will be provided in accordance with the school’s code of conduct. In addition, students, employees or visitors to the school site may face fines under the Tobacco Control Act/Regulation and/or the BC Cannabis Control and Licencing Act.
2. School Districts will implement on campus prevention and cessation programs. These programs will assist schools in providing students with up to date information on the many consequences of tobacco/cannabis/vaping use (e.g. BC Tobacco Facts Curricular), offer techniques that students can use to stop their tobacco/cannabis/vaping use including cessation programs (e.g. Kick the Nic, QuitNow).

3. Parents/guardians will be notified of all violations and actions taken by the school. It is recommended that suspension be used only as a last resort.

**Related Bylaws, Policies, Contracts and Regulations:**

Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act/Regulations

BC Cannabis Control and Licencing Act