

DIVISION: PROGRAMS

Policy #: PROG-316

POLICY NAME

TOBACCO FREE

POLICY STATEMENT

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (“District”) is committed to providing students, staff and other members of the school community with a healthy school environment. In accordance with the [Smoke-free Environment Act, 2005](#) and the [Tobacco Control Act](#), the District does not permit smoking, smokeless tobacco or any product that mimics tobacco in schools or other district facilities, on district property, in district vehicles or in other modes of transportation used to transport students.

The Tobacco Free policy is part of a comprehensive approach to the creation and maintenance of a healthy school environment.

BACKGROUND

Tobacco is an addictive substance and the District recognizes that smoking, exposure to second-hand smoke, and the use of smokeless tobacco are known to cause serious illness, disease and death. Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of disease and death in Canada.

Permitting tobacco use on school property conflicts with prevention messages taught in the curriculum. Further, current legislation limits access and the sale of tobacco products to youth.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide a tobacco-free learning environment and workplace for students, staff and volunteers.
 - To assist students in making healthy choices.
-

Approved: March 5, 2016

SCOPE

This policy applies to all:

- Schools and district-owned, leased or operated facilities;
- Properties, including parking lots;
- Vehicles parked on district/school parking lots; and,
- Vehicles, including school buses and all other vehicles owned, contracted/leased or used by the school district for the purpose of transporting students.

DEFINITIONS

TOBACCO

For the purpose of this policy, tobacco includes:

- Lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or clove cigarette
- Smoking products and smokeless tobacco including spit tobacco, dip, chew and snuff in any form
- Products (current and future) that mimic tobacco use (e.g., electronic cigarettes/vaping).

POLICY DIRECTIVES

1. All schools, school district facilities, worksites, associated grounds, district vehicles, and all modes of transportation when used to transport students will be tobacco free at all times.
2. All school and district-sponsored events, on and off district property, will be tobacco free.
3. Community users of district and school facilities must abide by this Policy.
4. The District will ensure appropriate signage is in place to inform students, staff and members of the general public that tobacco use is prohibited at all district facilities and properties.

5. The school administrator or designate will also communicate to students, school staff, parents/guardians and other visitors to the school that tobacco use is prohibited. Such communication may include signage, notices in school handbooks, newsletter inserts, webpage highlights and announcements at school events.
6. Distribution or sale of tobacco products including smoking devices (e.g., electronic cigarettes) is not permitted.
7. Tobacco company advertising and sponsoring of school-related initiatives are not permitted.
8. Clothing, bags, hats and other personal items used or worn by students, staff and volunteers to display, promote or advertise tobacco products are not permitted.
9. Schools should make information available to students and staff on quit-smoking (e.g., Provincial Smokers' Helpline) and other resources. Additional information can be accessed at: [Alliance for the Control of Tobacco](#).
10. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary repercussions.