
Subject: Tobacco-Free Schools
Effective: March 9, 1998
Revised: July 1, 2001; September 6, 2005

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide tobacco-free learning environments for public school students.
 - 1.2 To assist students in making healthy choices.
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2.0 APPLICATION

This policy applies to all public school premises and vehicles.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

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 three components: (1) education, (2) services and supports, and (3) the environment (social and physical).

Public school premises include all school buildings and property leased by, or otherwise furnished to, the Minister and used for the provision of public education to students.

Public school vehicles include school buses and all other vehicles used by school districts for the purpose of transporting students.

Tobacco means tobacco in any form in which tobacco is consumed, and includes snuff.

4.0 LEGAL AUTHORITY

Education Act, section

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

5.0 GOALS / PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 The Department of Education recognizes that:
 - (a) tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability and death in New Brunswick;

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- (b) second-hand smoke contributes to health problems;
 - (c) the use of chewing tobacco has been shown to cause preventable health problems;
and
 - (d) individuals with health problems such as asthma can experience adverse health consequences from even small amounts of smoke in the environment.
- 5.2 The Department of Education believes that a comprehensive school health approach can help students learn and fosters healthy lifestyles by providing them with knowledge, skills, social support and environmental reinforcement. This approach will prevent tobacco use, protect non-smokers from second-hand smoke and assist those who wish to cease using tobacco.
- 5.3 The Department of Education believes that:
- (a) smoke-free school environments may help children and adolescents resist the uptake of smoking;
 - (b) most smokers begin using tobacco during their school years; and
 - (c) individual students, educators, parents and other members of the school community all contribute to the success of young people in making healthy choices.

6.0 REQUIREMENTS / STANDARDS

- 6.1 As of October 1, 2004, smoking is prohibited in all school buildings, on all school grounds at all times, as per the Smoke-free Places Act.
- 6.2 The use of tobacco in public schools vehicles is prohibited (i.e., vehicles used by school districts for transporting students).
- 6.3 The use of tobacco is not permitted in cars parked on school grounds.
- 6.4 Tobacco company sponsorship of school-related initiatives is not permitted.
- 6.5 The superintendent must ensure that:
- required signs are posted, in keeping with the specifications of the Smoke-free Places Act;
 - community use agreements reflect clearly that smoking/tobacco use is prohibited at all times and in all areas of school buildings and school grounds; and
 - complaints received about smoking/tobacco use on school grounds are followed-up to the extent of the school's jurisdiction.

7.0 GUIDELINES / RECOMMENDATIONS

Schools should

- 7.1 Advise students, parents, staff and others who come onto school grounds that smoking/tobacco use is not permitted anywhere on school grounds.
- 7.2 Work with students, staff, parents and school neighbours to find workable options for students and staff who are addicted to tobacco.
- 7.3 Ensure the school's approach and any sanctions associated with tobacco use on school grounds are well-communicated to students and the rest of the school community.
- 7.4 Office personnel should be able to field questions about the school's approach to:
- students who smoke/use tobacco on school grounds (supports available and discipline);
 - complaints (what steps will the school take to follow-up on complaints); and
 - students/staff smoking off school grounds (what are the rules that have been communicated to students and staff).

8.0 DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL POLICYMAKING

Not applicable.

9.0 REFERENCES

Policy 703 – Positive Learning Environment provides direction regarding the resolution of student issues affecting the school community and effective behaviour management.

Non-Smoking Policy (AD-2704) of the Government of New Brunswick prohibits smoking in designated areas. This policy applies to all persons employed in Part I of the Public Service.

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

Smoke-free Places Act

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

10.0 CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Department of Education – Student Services Branch
(506) 453-2816

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