POLICY:	Smoking and Vaping on Board and / or School Property	#	726
SECTION:	700 : School Administration	Page 1 of	2

APPROVAL/REVISION DATE:	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DATE:
October 7, 2024	October 8, 2024	October 2029

CROSS REFERENCE:	
	Policy 700: School Code of Conduct Policy 710: Student Relations and Discipline Policy 725: Cultural Protocol Policy 1007: Student Drug Education Smoke-Free Ontario Act / Cannabis Act

A: POLICY

1. It is the policy of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board to provide a smoke-free (cannabis and tobacco) and electronic-cigarette (also called "e-cigarette" or "vape")/vape-free environment for its students, staff, and others while on school/Board property or during school/Board events.

B: RATIONALE

2. 2.1 The harmful effects of smoking and vaping on health are recognized both to the smoker or vaper as well as to the bystander. The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board wishes to safeguard the health of its students, employees and visitors by ensuring smoke-free and vape-free learning and working environments.

2.2 In accordance with the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*, the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board permits smudging and the use of sacred medicines in connection with Indigenous cultural practices at cultural and educational events, meetings, and relevant classroom presentations as per Policy 725: Cultural Protocol.

C: REQUIREMENTS

3. 3.1 No person (including but not limited to student, employee, visitor, facility user or member of the public) is permitted to smoke or vape, or otherwise use, sell or distribute tobacco, vaping or cannabis products on school/Board property at any time.

3.2 In accordance with the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*, smoking or vaping (tobacco and cannabis) is not permitted within 20 meters of the school's or Board's property. It is against the law for any person to smoke or vape (tobacco and cannabis) on Board property. Board property includes all school/Board buildings and extends to private vehicles while they are parked on school/Board premises.

- Anyone smoking or vaping (tobacco and cannabis) on school property is guilty of an offence and if convicted may result in a fine under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*.

3.3 Each Board Property shall post at entrances signs prohibiting smoking and vaping.

3.4 Students are prohibited from using, selling or distributing these products at any time during the school day and at any time during school/ Board-related events.

3.5 Staff are prohibited from using, selling or distributing these products during the

course of their work or volunteering. Scheduled breaks and lunch are excluded from this prohibition of any otherwise lawful activity.

3.6 Smoking or vaping is prohibited in any vehicle while on Board property. No person will smoke, use, sell, or distribute tobacco, vaping products, or cannabis on a school bus or school-chartered coach.

3.7 The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* prohibits the sale and supply of tobacco or vapes (e-cigarettes) to anyone under 19 years of age. Anyone who sells or supplies tobacco or an e-cigarette/vape to a student under 19 years of age is guilty of an offence and, if convicted, may result in a fine under the *Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017*.

3.8 Students who violate this policy will be subject to progressive discipline as per *Policy 710: Student Relations and Discipline*. In addition, the student(s) shall be instructed on the health hazards associated with smoking, vaping, nicotine products, recreational cannabis, alcohol and illegal drugs. Students will receive support to learn from the inappropriate behaviours and make choices in support of continuing their learning.

- At a minimum, in the case that tobacco, electronic cigarettes / vapes, nicotine products, recreational cannabis, alcohol and illegal drugs are found in the possession of a student, parents must be notified and the student must surrender the items to the educator or administrator.

- Administrators will dispose of seized items in accordance with direction from the local police force and Board administration.

3.9 Employees, volunteers and visitors will not smoke or vape, use, sell or distribute tobacco, vaping products or cannabis when involved in activities, including but not limited to field trips, competitive events, extracurricular activities or any other work-related activity where students are present.

4.0 The Board does not assume responsibility for fines levied against staff, students, or visitors found in violation of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, Cannabis Act*, or any other legislation or law.