



Learning Environment

Smoke and Tobacco Free Environment

Policy Number LE-26

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (the Board) will establish and maintain a smoke and tobacco free environment in all premises and on all properties, owned and/or operated by the Board.

Tobacco products also include electronic products such as electronic cigarettes containing nicotine or not, cigars, and pipes as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products. Most of these products are shaped and look like their conventional counterparts. They produce a vapour that resembles smoke and glow that resembles the tip of a cigarette. They consist of a battery-powered delivery system that vapourizes and delivers a liquid chemical mixture that may be composed of various amounts of nicotine, propylene glycol, and/or other chemicals.

An exception to this policy, while considering the health risks for all, shall be made by the Director of Education for the traditional use of smoke and tobacco that forms part of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit culture and spirituality, when used for such purposes as per cultural protocols. These protocols include but are not limited to, offering tobacco in the form of a tobacco tie, a custom shared by many Indigenous peoples. Tobacco is offered for various reasons and in different contexts, such as when seeking assistance from an Indigenous elder, knowledge keeper, or individual.

The Board acknowledges that other cultural groups may have similar cultural protocols regarding the traditional use of smoke and tobacco, akin to those of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultures. The Director of Education will make decisions regarding exemptions based on cultural sensitivity and consultation with relevant community members.

Procedural Guidelines Follow

Approved: Board Policy Review Meeting # 08-2015 (Wednesday, June 3, 2015)

Reviewed: Board Policy Review Committee Meeting #06-2021 (Wednesday, October 6, 2021)

Reviewed: Board Meeting #12 (Wednesday, October 20, 2021)

Reviewed: Board Policy Review Meeting #01-2024 (Tuesday, October 1, 2024)

Revised: Board Meeting #10-2024 (Wednesday, October 23, 2024)



Procedures and Guidelines Supporting Policy Number LE-26 Smoke and Tobacco Free Environment

1. PURPOSE

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board endeavours to provide and maintain learning and working environments which safeguard the health and welfare of students and employees. Such environments are free from the harmful effects of tobacco products and uphold the legislation to the broader community. This is achieved by prohibiting the smoking/vaping or the usage of tobacco products, anywhere on Board property and in Board premises.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board to declare, establish and maintain a smoke free/tobacco free environment in all premises and on all properties, owned and/or operated by the Board and be in compliance with the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* (SFOA).

3. PARAMETERS

- 3.1. This policy is primarily governed by the [Smoke Free Ontario Act \(SFOA\)](#), which prohibits smoking/vaping or the holding of lit tobacco products on board premises. The board recognizes that other uses of tobacco, such as for educational purposes, are governed by the [Education Act](#).
- 3.2. Persons who fail to comply with this policy are subject to consequences as may be imposed by enforcement of the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* and/or Safe School policies and/or Codes of Conduct of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board and the local school.
- 3.3. 'No smoking/No vaping' signage shall be posted in all entrances to Board premises.
- 3.4. A copy of this policy will be made available in all schools and premises owned and /or operated by the Board and shall be made known to all Board employees.
- 3.5. Relevant material dealing with Smoke Free Ontario legislation and/or information relating to anti-smoking/vaping, smoking/vaping cessation, the ingestion of tobacco products and health shall be posted in all Board premises.



- 3.6. An exception to this policy, while considering the health risks for all, shall be made by the Director of Education for the traditional use of smoke and tobacco that forms part of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit culture and spirituality, when used for such purposes as per cultural protocols. These protocols include but are not limited to, offering tobacco in the form of a tobacco tie, a custom shared by many Indigenous peoples. Tobacco is offered for various reasons and in different contexts, such as when seeking assistance from an Indigenous elder, knowledge keeper, or individual.

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4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1. Director of Education
 - 4.1.1. To oversee compliance with the Smoke Free/Tobacco Free policy.
- 4.2. Superintendents, Senior Managers and Principals
 - 4.2.1. To support the parameters outlined within this policy.
 - 4.2.2. To address infractions to this policy according to the Safe Schools policy and/or Code of Conduct of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board and the local school.
 - 4.2.3. To notify the Permit department of any violations to the Smoke Free/Tobacco Free policy.
 - 4.2.4. To ensure that this policy, its guidelines and related procedures have been communicated to all individuals on Board premises.
- 4.3. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Tobacco Enforcement Officers
 - 4.3.1. To enforce the Smoke Free Ontario Act (SFOA), including issuing tickets or laying charges, and issuing summonses to those individuals who are found smoking, vaping, or holding lit tobacco on Board property.
- 4.4. All Individuals on Board Premises
 - 4.4.1. To refrain from smoking, vaping or the usage of tobacco products on Board property, in Board-operated premises or vehicles, or in vehicles parked on Board property.



5. DEFINITIONS

5.1. Board Premises and Property

Includes all administrative buildings of the Board, Board operated buildings including schools, and all locations where educational activities are taking place. Board-owned vehicles and machinery are also considered to be Board property.

5.2. Individuals on Board Premises

Includes students, staff, trustees, contractors, parents/guardians, volunteers, permit holders and all others who are invited to visit or work on Board property and in Board operated buildings.

5.3. Tobacco Free Environment

An environment that is free of smoke caused by smoking, vaping or lit tobacco, and is free from the usage of any type of tobacco product as defined below.

5.4. Tobacco Products

Any products containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, vaped, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, but does not apply to regulated products intended for use in tobacco cessation.

Common types of tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, vaporizers, cigars, cigarillos, blunt wraps, beedies, shisha, chew, plug, snuff and snus.

Tobacco products also include electronic products such as but not limited to, electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, cigars or pipes containing nicotine or not, as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products.

5.5. Vaping

The act or practice of inhaling and exhaling vapour, typically containing nicotine and flavourings, produced by an electronic smoking device designed for this purpose.

6. CROSS REFERENCES

[Education Act, Section 302 \(1\)](#)
[Smoke Free Ontario Act \(SFOA\)](#)



SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

- Approved: Board Policy Review - Meeting 04-2015 (Wednesday, May 20, 2015)*
- Revised: Board Policy Review - Meeting #5-2019 (Tuesday, May 21, 2019)– sec 1. 3. 4. 5.*
- Reviewed: Board Policy Review Committee Meeting #06-2021 (Wednesday, October 6, 2021)*
- Reviewed: Board Meeting #12 (Wednesday, October 20, 2021)*
- Revised: Board Meeting #10-2024 (Wednesday, October 23, 2024)*
- Revised: Board Policy Review - Meeting #2-2025 (Wednesday, January 29, 2025)*
- Revised: Board Meeting #04-2025 (Wednesday, February 19, 2025)*