



POLICY SECTION: SAFE SCHOOLS

SUB-SECTION:

POLICY NAME: ALCOHOL, CANNABIS AND OTHER DRUGS

POLICY NO: S.S.03

Date Approved:April 26, 1990
June 11th, 2015**Date of Next Review:****Dates of Amendments:**April 26, 1990; Feb 15th, 1990;
December 13th, 2002; June 11th, 2015**Cross References**

S.S. 01 Consolidated Suspension and Expulsion Policy

S.S. 01 Operation Procedures Appendix A Protocol to Suspension

S.S. 01 Operation Procedures Appendix C Protocol to Expulsion

S.S. 01 Operational Procedures Appendix F Statutory Powers Procedure Act

S.S. 09 Code of Conduct

S.S. 10 Progressive Discipline Police/School Board Protocol

Smoke-Free Ontario Act, (2007) 2017, SO 2017, C26, Sch 5

Municipal Code, Chapter 709, Smoking

Ontario Regulation 268/18**Cannabis Act, 2017, SO 2017, C26, Sch 1****Bill 174, Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law
Amendment Act, 2017****Appendix****Purpose:**

This policy affirms that, consistent with our Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Catholic Social Teachings and our Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, the conduct of students and support of staff is expected to be modelled upon Christ. Conduct falling below that standard requires appropriate discipline. The perils and prevalence of alcohol, **cannabis** and **other** drugs within youth culture invite our Catholic school communities to shine particular focus upon this issue. Creating a positive and responsive school climate is a shared responsibility of all stakeholders. “*Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.*” (Micah: 8)



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Scope and Responsibility:

This policy has implications for all individuals of the TCDSB, in particular students, but as it applies to prevention, intervention and discipline, not only students, but also parents, teachers, school staff, administrators, parish priests, and community school partners. The Director of Education is responsible for this policy.

Alignment with MYSP:

Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being
 Living Our Catholic Values
 Strengthening Public Confidence

Financial Impact:

~~Generally there is no significant financial impact on the TCDSB. There is the potential for legal liability to the Board that could carry a financial penalty if the guidelines and procedures included and related to this policy are not honoured.~~

Legal Impact:

~~The Act requires principals to promote a school climate where all individuals feel safe. When serious incidents occur, the principal is required to conduct an investigation and to take appropriate steps to re-establish safety. The Act also provides parents/guardians/adult students with an opportunity and a process to review and appeal decisions made by the school board~~



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Policy:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes its obligation to create a positive and responsive school climate. The Board does not tolerate during school, or Board-sponsored events, the use, possession, or trafficking by students, **school staff, administrators, employees and parish priests**, of any substance which is unlawful under statute or regulation of Ontario, Canada or Board policy.

Further recognizing that alcohol, **cannabis** and **other** drug abuse is a concern in youth culture and is potentially very harmful, and acknowledging the God-given dignity and value of each person and the need to understand the human journey in the context of relationship, the Toronto Catholic District School Board will address student alcohol, **cannabis** and other drug use, both proactively and with fair disciplinary action.

Regulations:

1. The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes the role of drug education in reducing alcohol, **cannabis** and other drug related problems, and will therefore address student alcohol, **cannabis** and **other** drug use by implementing a comprehensive curriculum designed to prevent alcohol, **cannabis** and **other** drug-related problems.
2. TCDSB drug prevention curriculum will be given a high level of priority with regard to development and implementation, and will be linked to the developmental stages of the students and contain specific objectives for



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each grade from primary to secondary.

3. Alcohol, **cannabis** and **other** drug prevention curriculum will be incorporated into various subject areas, covering a wide range of topics, further supplemented by extra- curricular activities within the school community.
4. Alcohol, **cannabis** and **other** drug prevention curriculum is addressed within the Ministry of Education Physical and Health Education Curriculum, K-12. While primary implementation will take place within the HPE curriculum, the monitoring and extra-curricular supports will be supported by a cross-disciplinary team, which includes contributions from the Curriculum and Accountability department, the TCDSB Mental Health Lead, the Social Work and Psychology departments and the Safe Schools department.
5. The alcohol, **cannabis** and **other** drug prevention curriculum shall be evaluated regularly and revised as necessary.
6. Where proactive education and preventative efforts have been unsuccessful, an early intervention program will be employed, offering early assistance to students who are experiencing problems related to alcohol, **cannabis** and other drugs. This can include supports from community partners with



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specialization in this area.

7. A process for identification of, and early intervention into, problems among students for whom preventive efforts have been unsuccessful shall include:
 - a) Ensuring all appropriate staff have been familiarized with the signs and symptoms of alcohol, **cannabis** and other drug use/ or abuse by students.
 - b) Acquainting all staff with the procedures to follow and referrals skills required when dealing with alcohol, **cannabis** and **other** drug use/abuse by students.
 - c) Informing all students and their parents/guardians of the existence of early intervention programs and how to gain access.

8. Violations of the TCDSB Code of Conduct under the auspices of this policy can occur in seven ways:
 - a) Use of tobacco or tobacco products
 - b) Use or possession of alcohol
 - c) Use or possession of cannabis**
 - d) Use of inhalants for the purpose of intoxication
 - e) Use or possession of illicit drugs
 - f) Intoxication by alcohol, **cannabis** or other drugs
 - g) Trafficking of illegal drugs



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- h) Giving alcohol or **cannabis** to a minor
9. The Toronto Catholic District School Board prohibits the use of alcohol, **cannabis** or **other** drugs by students while on board property or at events sponsored by the Board and its constituent schools. The possession of these substances, with the exception of tobacco and tobacco products, is also prohibited. [Note: While students over sixteen years of age may legally possess tobacco **and students over eighteen years of age may legally possess cannabis**, this provision recognizes that the Toronto Catholic District School Board prohibits its **the use of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or other drugs** on school property or at school-sponsored events, per regulation 10 below.] However, school sponsored events not held on Board property are governed by the standards established for that particular location.
- 10a. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act governs all offences related to smoking on school property. Further the Municipal Code Chapter 709 further strengthens the obligations each school must fulfill to remain in compliance with legislation and municipal bylaws. All school administrators will ensure that staff, students, parents and members of the public are aware that smoking **tobacco or cannabis** is not permitted on school property **nor within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of school property.**



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- b. Signage shall be posted at all entrances, exits, washrooms and other appropriate locations to ensure compliance.
- c. In secondary schools, the Health and Physical Education Department will work with Toronto Public Health and the tobacco enforcement officials to create a unified procedure in regards to protocol for enforcing the Smoke Free Ontario Act in the Toronto Catholic District School Board secondary schools.
11. Should a student be found in possession of a substance **on school property or at a school related event** which is legally prohibited, whether for their own use or for distribution/trafficking, the substance will be confiscated, and the police ~~must~~ **may** be notified. **This includes alcohol and cannabis where consumption and possession are age-restricted by legislation.** ~~The police will confiscate all materials from the principal for appropriate disposal, according to the requirements of the Police/School Board Protocol.~~
- 12a. Consistent with S.S. 01 Suspension and Expulsion Consolidated and S.S. 09 TCDSB Code of Conduct, all TCDSB employees must report to the principal as soon as reasonably possible—and no later than the end of the school day-- if they become aware of a student who may have engaged in a serious student incident, such as the possession, use, trafficking or distribution of prohibited substances. Staff who



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may be excluded from this provision are members of the College of Social Workers and Social Services Workers and Members of the College of Psychology, if they are involved in a confidential therapeutic role with the student and if the use of substance use does not present imminent harm to self or others.

- b. In accordance with the sections 306. and 310. of *The Education Act*, a principal shall consider whether to suspend or expel a pupil if he or she believes that the pupil has engaged in any of the Activities identified in *Operational Procedures "Protocol to Suspension"* (S.S. 01 - Appendix A) or *Operational Procedures "Protocol to Expulsion"* (S.S. 01 - Appendix C) while at school, at a school related activity, or in other circumstances where engaging in the Activity will have a negative impact on school climate. Principals will consider a harm reduction model, which signifies that the purpose of suspensions should not be punitive but rather supportive to the student and school population.
13. **If any school staff, administrator or employee is found in possession or in use of alcohol, cannabis and other drugs, that individual may be subject to discipline.**



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Definitions:

Alcohol:

Alcohol is underscored as the drug most often used by students and most responsible for drug-related problems. **Refers to an intoxicating liquor, alcoholic drink, strong drink, drink, spirits or intoxicants.**

Cannabis:

Cannabis, also known as marijuana among other names, is a psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used for medical or recreational purposes

Drug Use:

"Drug use" refers to drugs other than alcohol and includes **cannabis**, tobacco, illicit drugs, inhalants, and prescription drugs used without the authority of a physician. It does not include drugs, **including cannabis, when** prescribed by a physician or over-the-counter medications used appropriately with the permission of a parent or legal guardian in the case of students under the age of 18.

Evaluation and Metrics:

The effectiveness of the policy will be determined by measuring the following: Local Safe and Accepting Schools Teams will review local data related to the number of incidents involving smoking, alcohol, **cannabis** or illegal drugs (use, possession, trafficking) to inform their annual Safe Schools Plan and establish yearly local priorities.