



REPORT TO

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### 2023 ANNUAL REPORT: SMOKE AND VAPOUR FREE SPACE POLICY B.B.04

*"Let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill." ~ Proverbs 1:5*

#### Drafted

September 18, 2023

#### Meeting Date

October 5, 2023

Michael Caccamo, Superintendent, Nurturing our Catholic Community, Safe Schools, Continuing Education, Religious Accommodations, Policy Review and Development

#### INFORMATION REPORT

**Vision:** *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

**Mission:** *Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN  
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Brendan Browne  
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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

According to the TCDSB Policy B.B. 04 Smoke and Vapour Free Space, the TCDSB is committed to the provision of a smoke, vapour and tobacco free environment in all premises and on all properties, owned and/or operated by the Board. The data relating to the 2022/2023 academic year indicate an increase in incidents and suspensions for secondary students for infractions of this policy, and a minimal increase for elementary student infractions.

**The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours.**

## **B. PURPOSE**

Consistent with Policy B.B. 04, an annual report is presented to the Board of Trustees by staff detailing the compliance and infractions of TCDSB policy B.B. 04.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. TCDSB Policy B.B. 04 was revised in May 2016 to include, under the evaluation and metrics section, the requirement of an annual report detailing compliance and infractions of this policy. The policy was further revised in March 2019 to include references to vaping and the use of cannabis.
2. The Tobacco Enforcement Department of the Toronto Public Health Department does not publicly release the total number of school infractions under the Smoke Free Ontario Act.
3. Data was collected from the Safe Schools Progressive Discipline Platform to provide an analysis of smoking-related discipline imposed during the 2022/2023 academic year on students.
4. Annually, TCDSB principals have been responding to a survey containing questions related to the compliance and number of infractions associated with this policy.
5. In September 2023, the survey was administered once again.

## D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. This year's results indicate an increase in incidents and suspensions for secondary students, and a minimal increase for elementary students. The data reflects an increase in staff monitoring and vigilance, in response to trends of increased substance use by students at the secondary level. The chart below indicates the number of incidents and suspensions since 2013-2014 in both elementary and secondary schools:

Year	Elementary School Totals		Secondary School Totals	
	Incidents	Suspensions	Incidents	Suspensions
2013-2014	5	1	120	88
2014-2015	2	2	113	69
2015-2016	3	2	78	66
2016-2017	4	1	65	47
2017-2018	0	0	64	44
2018-2019	29	8	74	45
2019-2020	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D
2020-2021	5	5	0	0
2021-2022	20	8	86	47
2022-2023	19	10	162	93*

*\* This reflects an approximate average of 3 suspensions per secondary school.*

2. Highlights from the 2022-2023 survey are included below:
  - Surveys were completed by all elementary and secondary schools
  - 46.9% of respondents (92 schools) indicated a requirement for additional signs at the entrances and exits of their locations
  - There were 131 student discipline issues recorded into the Progressive Discipline Incident Log involving 27 schools
  - Schools communicate the policy on smoking/vaping mainly through the following channels (shown as a % of the respondents):
    - Staff meetings (61.7%)
    - Student Agenda books (37.2%)
    - PA announcements (33.2%)
    - Newsletters (40.8%)
    - Emails (34.7%)
    - Assemblies (37.2%)
    - Other (16.8%)

3. Schools will continue to build awareness among students, parents and staff about the Board's policies on smoking/vaping through an increased use of communication and engagement strategies as listed above.
4. Environmental Support Services has considered the possible use of technology to detect vaping in student washrooms. This would be cost and operationally inhibitive.
5. Environmental Support Services will continue to work with all schools through their area Service Quality Supervisors (SQS) to ensure that the proper signage is posted at each entrance and location for their school building. Posting of additional signage specific to vaping in washrooms is also being considered.
6. Strategies and resources are shared with administrators and staff to address smoking and vaping concerns. Vigilance and frequent monitoring by administrators and staff (in-person and via video hallway surveillance), as well as the implementation of progressive discipline measures, where appropriate, continue to be emphasized. Curriculum and professional learning resources have been shared with administrators and staff relating to substance use, misuse, addictions, and related behaviours.
7. The Health and Physical Education, Curriculum, Mental Health and Well-being, Nurturing our Catholic Community and Safe Schools Departments continue to help support student safety, promote healthy decision-making for students, and prevent and/or delay smoking, recreational cannabis use and vaping through initiatives, activities and events for administrators, teachers, support and clinical staff, students and parents.
8. Staff will work with the Student Trustees and the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) to develop awareness building strategies discouraging substance use.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

An annual report as required by Policy B.B. 04 which is presented to the Board.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the information of the Board of Trustees.