



POLICY SECTION: ~~SAFE SCHOOLS~~ Schools, Students and Learning

SUB-SECTION:

POLICY NAME: ALCOHOL, CANNABIS AND OTHER DRUGS

POLICY NO: ~~—————~~ S.S.03

Date Approved: Feb 15th, 1990	Date of Next Review: January, 2024 2029	Dates of Amendments: December 13th, 2002; June 11th, 2015; January 21, 2019; June 2024
<p>Responsible Department: Safe Schools</p> <p>Cross References</p> <p>Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, SO 2017, C26, Sch 5</i> • <i>Municipal Code, Chapter 709, Smoking</i> • <i>Ontario Regulation 268/18</i> • <i>Cannabis Act, 2017, SO 2017, C26, Sch 1</i> • <i>Bill 174, Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017</i> • <i>Human Rights Code, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.19</i> <p>Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/Program Memorandum 128, 2024, The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct • Policy/Program Memorandum 145 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour, 2018 • Provincial Model for a Local Police/School Board Protocol <p>TCDSB Policy /Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Policy 		



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- ~~S.S. 10 Progressive Discipline Policy Police/School Board Protocol~~

Appendix

Purpose:

Policy:

This policy **outlines the Toronto Catholic District School Board’s (TCDSB) position on the use of alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs on TCDSB property and at TCDSB-related events and/or activities.** ~~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~~ **safe and** ~~positive and responsive school~~



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climate is a shared responsibility of all stakeholders. ~~“...And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)~~

The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes its obligation to create a positive and responsive school climate. **The recreational use, possession, or trafficking of alcohol, cannabis (including cannabinoids), and illegal drugs is not permitted by anyone, regardless of age, on TCDSB property or at TCDSB-related events and/or activities unless prescribed by a physician and used in accordance with the physician’s directions.**

For the purposes of this policy, “illegal drugs” includes ~~The Board does not tolerate during school, or Board sponsored events, the use, possession, or trafficking~~ **but is not limited to any substance that is illegal by virtue of any statute or regulation of Ontario or, Canada, including prescription drugs for which a valid prescription has not been issued to a person possessing/using it. It also includes any substance that is prohibited by TCDSB policy. This policy does not prohibit the possession or use of drugs, including cannabis, when prescribed by a physician and used in accordance with the physician’s directions. It also does not prohibit over-the-counter medications that are used appropriately (and with the permission of a parent or legal guardian in the case of students under the age of 18).**

The prohibitions in this policy apply to by students, school staff, administrators,



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employees, and parish priests, **any community partners, third party agents, or permit holders**, 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 **TCDSB** Toronto Catholic District School Board will address student alcohol, cannabis and other drug use, both proactively and with fair disciplinary action.

The policy is in alignment with the TCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and reflects Catholic values rooted in the love of Christ.

Scope and Responsibility:

This policy has implications for all individuals of the TCDSB **anyone on TCDSB property or at Board-related events and/or activities**, 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~~



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~~Strengthening Public Confidence~~

Regulations:

1. ~~TCDSB 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 ~~for~~ development and implementation, ~~and~~ will be linked to the developmental stages of ~~the students,~~ and ~~will~~ contain specific objectives for 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. ~~It will be,~~ 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~~ ~~and~~ **Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum, K-12**. While primary implementation will take place within the HPE curriculum, the monitoring



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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 **assistance** ~~can~~ **may** include supports from community partners with specialization in this area.
7. A process for identification of, and early intervention into, problems among students for whom preventative 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



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early intervention programs and how to gain access.

8. Violations of **this policy can amount to a violation of the** TCDSB Code of Conduct ~~under the auspices of this policy can occur in seven~~ **in several** ways, **including but not limited to:**
- a) Use of tobacco or tobacco products, **including vaping;**
 - b) Use or possession of alcohol;
 - c) Use or possession of ~~any form of~~ **cannabis with the exception of cannabis prescribed for medical use by a physician in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons;**
 - ~~d) Use or possession of products containing cannabinoids.~~
 - e) Use of inhalants for the purpose of intoxication;
 - f) Use or possession of ~~illicit~~ **illegal** drugs;
 - g) ~~Intoxication by~~ **Being under the influence of** alcohol, **tobacco**, cannabis or other drugs;
 - h) **Sale or Trafficking of tobacco, alcohol, cannabis or** illegal drugs; **and**
 - i) Giving **tobacco**, alcohol, ~~or~~ **cannabis, or illegal drugs** to a minor.
9. **Responses related to violations of this policy are addressed through a progressive discipline approach that considers mitigating and other factors, and that includes consultation between the principal/site manager and the appropriate supervisory officer.**

~~The Toronto Catholic District School Board prohibits the use of alcohol, cannabis, or~~



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~~drugs by students while on board property or at events sponsored by the Board and its constituent schools. The possession of alcohol, cannabis, and illegal drugs 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 the use of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or other drugs on school property or at school sponsored events~~

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~~10.~~ **The sale and supply of tobacco or e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of nineteen (19) is prohibited. Anyone who sells or supplies tobacco or an e-cigarette 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.**

~~109.~~ **Smoking of tobacco and cannabis and the use of electronic cigarettes (vaping) at schools, on school grounds and all public areas within 20 metres of these grounds is prohibited. Anyone smoking or vaping on school property is guilty of an offence and if convicted may result in a fine under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017.**

a. ~~In accordance with Tthe *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, its regulations,~~ governs all offences related to smoking on school property. Further, ~~and Chapter 709 of 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/~~site managers~~ will ensure that staff, students, parents and members of the public are reminded of this prohibition. ~~aware that smoking or vaping tobacco or cannabis is not permitted on school TCDSB property nor~~



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~~within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of school TCDSB property.~~

- 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.

~~11.10.~~ Where a student is found in possession of alcohol, tobacco, electronic cigarette, recreational cannabis, related products and/or illegal drugs, ~~Should a student be found in possession of a substance that is prohibited by this policy, either~~ on school TCDSB property or at a school-related TCDSB-related event and/or activity which is legally prohibited, ~~whether for their own use or for distribution/trafficking, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must be notified, and the student must surrender the item(s) to the educator or administrator,~~ 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.

~~11.~~ Staff will follow the TCDSB Police/School Board Protocol developed in compliance with the Provincial Model ~~should follow the direction in Provincial Model for a Local Police/School Board~~



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Protocol regarding mandatory and discretionary notification of incidents to the police.

12. Confiscated property will be appropriately secured until removed from school premises by police or by other arrangement as determined by Principal and Area Superintendent.

~~12~~**11.** a. Consistent with ~~S.S. 04~~ Suspension and Expulsion Consolidated Policy and ~~S.S. 09~~ TCDSB Code of Conduct Policy, 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 may be excluded from this provision are m~~Members of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Services Workers and Members members of the College of Psychologists of Ontario, shall also report, in a manner that is consistent with the code of ethics and the standards of practice of their respective professions, matters that could result in the student doing physical, emotional, or psychological harm to themselves or to others. In all other circumstances, members of these Colleges who are engaged in a clinical relationship with a student shall report such incidents to the principal as soon as it is, in their professional opinion, reasonably possible to do so without having a negative impact on the nature of the clinical relationship. They ~~if they are involved in a confidential therapeutic role with the student and if the~~



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~~use of substance use does not present imminent harm to self or others.~~

b. In accordance with ~~the~~ sections 306. and 310. of ~~The~~ **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~~ **activities** identified in *Operational Procedures “Protocol to Suspension and Expulsion”* (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 ~~A~~ 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~~**12**. If any school staff, administrator, or employee is found in possession or in use of alcohol, cannabis ~~and~~ **or** other **illegal** drugs, that individual may be subject to discipline.

Definitions:

Alcohol:

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



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from the Cannabis plant used for medical or recreational purposes. **The term “cannabis”, as used in this policy, refers to all forms of cannabis, including but not limited to cannabinoids, edibles, liquid edibles, extracts and topical cannabis.**

Cannabinoid:

The word cannabinoid refers to every chemical substance, regardless of structure or origin, that joins the cannabinoid receptors of the body and brain. The two main Cannabinoids are delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). This includes products that are ingested (liquid or solid), inhaled or applied topically.

Drug Use:

"Drug use" refers to drugs other than alcohol and includes cannabis, tobacco, ~~illicit~~ **illegal** 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 **(and** with the permission of a parent or legal guardian in the case of students under the age of 18).

Illegal Drugs:

Illegal drugs includes, but is not limited, to any substance that is illegal by virtue of any statute or regulation of Ontario or, Canada, including prescription drugs for which a valid prescription has not been issued to person possessing/using it. It also includes any substance that is prohibited by Board policy. This policy does not prohibit the possession or use of drugs,



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including cannabis, when prescribed by a physician and used in accordance with the physician's directions. It also does not prohibit over-the-counter medications that are used appropriately (and 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:~~

- 1. The policy will be reviewed every five years.**
2. 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.