



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES November 26, 2013

Jim McKenzie, Associate Director & Treasurer

SUBJECT: Revision to Sec. C Policy – Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Abuse

PREPARED BY: Jim McKenzie, Associate Director & Treasurer

BACKGROUND:

The Directors of Education for St. Clair Catholic and the Lambton Kent District school boards meet twice annually with the Medical Officers of Health for both the Chatham-Kent and Lambton County public health units, to share and review information of mutual interest. The most recent meeting was held on Friday, November 1, 2013.

A concern about e-cigarettes was brought forward to the school boards by public health officials. E-cigarettes are a relatively new tobacco delivery product. Instead of dried tobacco leaves, cigarette paper and matches, e-cigarettes use rechargeable batteries, an atomizer and a nicotine cartridge. Nicotine is delivered to the user in the form of a vapour; rather than through the ingestion of smoke. Some concern was expressed that the device can also be used to deliver drugs other than nicotine.

The issue for public health officials is that the manufacturers of e-cigarettes have found a loophole in the law. The *Smoke Free Ontario Act*, along with similar legislation and municipal by-laws in other jurisdictions, bans smoking in public places; however, it identifies and prohibits only lit tobacco. The Medical Officers of Health for both municipalities have asked school boards to ban the devices on school and board property.

We have reviewed *Sec. C Policy – Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Abuse* and believe that the policy currently in place already prohibits the use of e-cigarettes implicitly, since “tobacco” is broadly defined as “all tobacco products.” However, in order to make the ban more explicit, it is recommended that e-cigarettes be included in the list of examples, as part of the definition of tobacco.

i.e., Tobacco means all tobacco products such as cigarettes, (insert e-cigarettes), cigars, cut tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Revision to Sec. C Policy – Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Abuse*, for information.

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board approve the revision to *Sec. C Policy – Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Abuse*, as recommended, effective November 26, 2013.

**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
SECTION C: STUDENTS**

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE	POLICY
EFFECTIVE: 2000 12 01 / 2006 02 01 / 2013 03 05 / 2013 11 26	

POLICY STATEMENT:

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board, per the Education Act, is responsible for the well-being and education of the students in its care. The Board believes that awareness of the hazards of tobacco, alcohol and drugs is essential for a healthy life-style. An important element of the education of its students requires that Board staff hold students accountable for their behaviour and activities.

POLICY GOAL:

The Board will work in partnership with students, parents, law enforcement agencies, community agencies, groups and parishes to help young people avoid the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

DEFINITIONS:

School Property means not only a school building and property, but includes out-of-classroom programs, activities and facilities approved by or under the jurisdiction of the Board

Principal means a principal or his/her designate

Parent means a parent or person having legal custody of a student

Alcohol means all substances defined as liquor in the Liquor Licence Act

Illicit Drugs include:

- a) drugs named in the Narcotic Control Act, such as: opiates, cocaine and cannabis;
- b) drugs in Part 4 of the Food and Drugs Act, such as: LSD, STP, MDA and other hallucinogenic drugs;
- c) anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs;
- d) drugs in Part 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, such as: amphetamines and barbiturates and other prescription drugs not prescribed by a physician for the individual in question.

Non-illicit Drugs include all solvents and inhalants, for example: glue, gasoline and some aerosol products

Search of the student's locker and the personal effects in the locker means a search of the locker and of the student's personal belongings exclusive of the person of the student, with a witness present if possible. If possible the student should be requested to open the locker and empty all personal belongings.

Search of the person of the student and student's personal effects not in the locker means a voluntary search of all clothing, purses, knapsacks etc., of the student. School personnel, with a

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witness present, are to request the student to empty all personal effects from clothing and purses/knapsacks.

Intoxication means being under the influence of alcohol, drugs (illicit and non-illicit), and other substances such as glue, solvents and aerosol inhalants.

Possession means having in their possession or under their control alcohol, or non-medical or illicit drugs and other substances.

Supplying or Selling means selling or distributing alcohol, or drugs and other substances.

Search and Seizure/Confiscation

- a) A principal has an obligation to carrying out his/her duty to maintain proper order and discipline in the school, has a discretion to deal with minor incidents on his/her own, or to involve parents and/or police.
- b) In order to exercise this discretion the principal must know the nature and extent of the offence. This requires the principal to investigate any credible allegation of drug use/possession or selling.
- c) If the principal has reasonable grounds for believing that a search will turn up evidence that a student has violated, or is violating, either the law or the rules of the school, such a search may be justified. The search should not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Tobacco means all tobacco products such as cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, cut tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, etc.

Confidentiality refers to the obligation to refrain from voluntarily disclosing any information which has been received in confidence. This is mitigated by what is in the best interests of the student.