

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS AND WORKPLACES

POLICY

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1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 The Halifax Regional School Board is committed to providing healthy learning and work environments for all students, employees, volunteers, and visitors. It is also dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyle choices for students.
- 1.2 The Board acknowledges that health-related problems can arise from use and exposure to tobacco and tobacco products and wishes to help protect and promote the health of all students, staff, volunteers and visitors by creating smoke-free schools, workplaces, vehicles, and properties.
- 1.3 The Board endorses and supports implementation of the *Nova Scotia Smoke-free Places Act, 2002* which prohibits tobacco possession for persons under the age of 19 and declares that no person shall smoke in schools, school board offices, or on school grounds.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy,

- 2.1 **Tobacco products** are defined as cigarettes, pipes, chewing tobacco and any other products defined under the *Revenue Act* or *Nova Scotia Tobacco Access Act*.
- 2.2 **School** is defined as all school sites, including community schools and Flexible Learning and Education Centres.

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 The use of tobacco products in schools and school board offices is prohibited at all times.
- 3.2 The use of tobacco products on all school grounds and within 4 metres of any school property is prohibited at all times.
- 3.3 The use of tobacco products within 4 metres of any school board office is prohibited at all times.
- 3.4 The use of tobacco products is prohibited on school buses and all vehicles belonging to the Halifax Regional School Board.
- 3.5 The use of tobacco products is prohibited in all vehicles while on school property.
- 3.6 All efforts will be made to inform students, staff, volunteers, and visitors of the prohibition of smoking in all buildings, properties, and vehicles of the Halifax Regional School Board.
- 3.7 The use of tobacco products by students, staff, and volunteers is prohibited at all school-related events.
- 3.8 In the case of extended school trips, any person who responsible for the students' well-being are not permitted to smoke in the presence of the students.
- 3.9 The use of tobacco products is prohibited by anyone transporting students to or from school events, and while in the presence of students during those events.
- 3.10 Tobacco company sponsorship of school-related initiatives is not permitted and all students and employees are discouraged from wearing clothing that advertises tobacco products.
- 3.11 Advertising and promotion for tobacco-funded events is not permitted in schools or school board offices.
- 3.12 In accordance with the Halifax Regional School Board's Student Behaviour and Discipline Policy, the use of tobacco products by students on school premises and at school-related events will be treated as a **severely disruptive behaviour**.
- 3.13 Any person suspected of selling, distributing, or in any way dispensing tobacco products to students will be addressed in accordance with the *Nova*

Scotia Tobacco Access Act, 1999.

- 3.14 Principals are authorized to search for and/or confiscate tobacco products from students in schools or on school grounds, or at school related events.
- 3.15 Where a student uses tobacco products in a manner that is persistently disobedient or defiant, or in a manner that could negatively affect the proper conduct of a school or classroom or the welfare or education of other students or staff, the principal has the authority to enforce this policy regardless of the location or time of the behaviour.

4.0 REFERENCES

- 4.1 *Nova Scotia Smoke-Free Places Act, 2002*
- 4.2 *Nova Scotia Tobacco Access Act, 1999*
- 4.3 *Nova Scotia Education Act, 2002*
- 4.4 Halifax Regional School Board, Policy B.013: Student Behaviour and Discipline Policy