



Vaping and smoking on school grounds

What you need to know

School and School District Codes of Conduct clearly indicate that **Vaping or Smoking anywhere on school grounds is strictly prohibited**. This means that students who engage in these activities will have consequences as indicated below.

Why is Vaping prohibited?

Provincial and Federal laws prevent the use of Vape or Tobacco products in any public buildings or enclosed spaces.

This is for health reasons and ensures that all members of the public are not exposed to second-hand vape or smoke. There are serious health risks of vaping. There is growing evidence that vaping has a significant negative impact on health and cognitive (brain) development of adolescents. Students who suffer from asthma or other bronchial issues are at particular risk from Vapour or Smoke.

Almost all ***Vape products now contain significant amounts of nicotine***, which is an exceedingly addictive chemical. Current statistics indicate that more than 75% of students who vape even a few times per week will switch to tobacco products by age 18. What this means is: ***If you vape regularly, you are very likely to start using Tobacco products prior to adulthood.*** Nicotine can also severely affect a student's ability to concentrate or complete work, and under certain circumstances can result in loss of consciousness. There have been numerous incidents of students being severely or fatally injured after blacking-out from nicotine consumption.

School Consequences

If you are caught vaping on school property the consequences will be immediate and as below:

- You will be required to meet with admin who will immediately contact your parents to inform them of your behaviour. Vapes and vaping substances will be confiscated.
- Your parents will be asked to come and meet with admin and take you home for the remainder of the day.
- For a first incident, you may have an in-school suspension for up to 3 days.
- A second incident of vaping may result in more severe consequences including suspension out of school.
- As with any incident contravening the school code of conduct, the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities or attend field trips or excursions may be restricted.
- Bystanders may also be subject to discipline.

What can you do?

- If you see students vaping in or around school grounds, leave the area immediately. If you enter a bathroom and students are vaping, find a different bathroom; it is your responsibility to remove yourself from a place where vaping/smoking is occurring. Bystander behaviour will not be accepted.
- If someone begins to vape when you are already in a bathroom, ask them to leave. If they do not, then separate yourself from those students who are vaping and leave the area as soon as possible.
- Some students may choose to leave school property to vape. Vaping by adolescents is not condoned by the school or school district. Being off school grounds is a privilege and our neighbours must be respected by not vaping in and around private property. We expect students not to cluster in groups around the neighbourhood.

What is the legislation about smoking or vaping on school property?

All public and private kindergarten to Grade 12 schools in B.C. are tobacco and vape-free under the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act and Regulation. This ban extends to all school property 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of whether or not school is in session. The ban also includes vehicles, parking lots, sports fields, driveways, courtyards, and private vehicles parked on school property. THIS IS THE LAW AND WE HAVE NO FLEXIBILITY IN NOT ENFORCING IT.