

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS POLICY

DM Approval:



Effective Date: July 1, 2015

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Yukon Government is committed to helping people quit smoking and to supporting children and adolescents so that they do not start smoking. This includes increasing the profile of smoking prevention and cessation efforts in Yukon schools and emphasizing the benefits of physical activity in maintaining smoke-free lifestyles.

Under the *Smoke Free Places Act* no person shall smoke in an elementary or secondary school, and no person shall smoke or use tobacco on the grounds of a school.

Nothing in the *Smoke Free Places Act* affects the rights of aboriginal people respecting traditional aboriginal spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction regarding smoking and tobacco use on school grounds and during school-related activities.

DEFINITIONS

'School Administrator' means the principal, vice-principal or other identified school staff as appropriate.

'Smoking' means to smoke, hold, or otherwise have control over an ignited tobacco product, including an electronic nicotine delivery system.

'Tobacco Product' means a product manufactured from tobacco and intended to be smoked or consumed in a smokeless form, including an electronic nicotine delivery system.

POLICY STATEMENT

Yukon Education supports:

1. The prohibition against smoking on school grounds in the Yukon that is set out in the *Smoke Free Places Act*.
2. The rights of aboriginal people respecting traditional aboriginal spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies taking place on school grounds or during school-related activities.
3. The promotion of healthy lifestyles, including the reduction and elimination of smoking.
4. The provision of effective educational programs and positive role modeling for students about smoking.
5. Ensuring that school administrators play an active role in advising students and teachers of laws and policies regarding smoking.
6. The establishment by school-based policies dealing with students leaving school grounds during school hours.

Nothing in this policy affects the rights of aboriginal people respecting traditional aboriginal spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies.

Standards and Procedures

- A. Smoking is not permitted in school facilities, on school grounds, or in vehicles transporting students to and from school-related activities.
- B. Students, staff, and members of the public are expected to observe school-based rules regarding smoking at all times, and to fully comply with the requirements of this policy.
- C. School-based rules regarding smoking will be posted in conspicuous places in each school and on each school ground and will be communicated to user groups that request permission to use school facilities.
- D. School administrators may implement comprehensive smoking cessation programs in their school, and may request the assistance of the Department of Health and Social Services when doing so.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of school administrators and school-based staff to ensure that the requirements of this policy are adhered to in Yukon schools and during school-related activities.

School Councils are responsible for working with school administrators and staff to approve and implement school-based rules regarding smoking on the school grounds.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all Yukon schools.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

In situations where the individual circumstances of a case are such that the provisions of this policy cannot be applied or to do so would result in an unfair or an unintended result, the decision may be based on the individual merits and justice of the situation. Such a decision will be considered for that specific case only and will not be precedent setting.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective July 1, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY REFERENCES

Education Act, ss. 4 (a) (vi) and (g)
Smoke Free Places Act
Yukon Education 'Substance Abuse Policy'
Yukon Tobacco Reduction Strategy

HISTORY

Tobacco-Free Schools Policy, effective November 15, 2005; amended effective June 2, 2008; amended effective July 1, 2015.