

RCDSB schools and worksites are smoke-free environments

Today, recreational cannabis use is permitted in Canada. In Ontario, anyone over the age of 19 can legally purchase cannabis.

The Cannabis Act outlines penalties for anyone caught selling or providing the substance to minors. Additionally, under the Cannabis Act, individuals who possess and use cannabis for medical purposes may continue to do so provided they are directed to do so by their medical practitioner.

The Renfrew County District School Board has three policies that currently intersect this issue.

Administrative Procedures [358](#) (Student Discipline: Suspension), [409](#) (Medication Used by Staff Members) and [411](#) (Drugs and Alcohol - Staff Members) all speak to our expectations and the consequences when dealing with individuals who are deemed to be under the influence while on RCDSB property during the school/work day.

To complement this effort, we have also developed a new AP that speaks directly to cannabis use by employees and volunteers. Administrative Procedure [496](#) - Recreational Cannabis outlines the District's standard for those who may choose to use recreational cannabis.

It prohibits individuals who are under the influence of, or in possession of recreational cannabis, to be present on school property, at a school-sponsored function, or at any event where they are a representative of the District. Furthermore, it prohibits individuals from being under the influence of, or in possession recreational cannabis while travelling to and from school-related activities or in possession of paraphernalia associated with the use of recreational cannabis while on school property, at school-sponsored functions or during working hours is prohibited.

We will work with the Renfrew County District Health Unit and our Mental Health Lead in order to share resources about healthy lifestyles and highlight the importance of responsible cannabis use. Finally, the Ministry of Education has resources for educators and parents to go over with students. View the full details of cannabis legalization on the Government of Ontario's [website](#).

Current rules for Ontario schools

One of our Guiding Principles is to create Safe, Caring, Inclusive and Respectful Learning Environments. We believe this is essential for student success. As such, possession of cannabis (except for medical purposes, if authorized by a health care practitioner such as a physician or a nurse practitioner) will not be permitted while in schools or at school-related activities, even after legalization of recreational cannabis.

Suspension may be considered for a student under the influence or in possession of cannabis. Suspension will be required, and expulsion may be considered, if a student gives cannabis to a minor.

Smoking or vaping cannabis is not permitted at schools and places where children gather.