

<b>Section:</b>	<b>District Administration</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Impairing, Banned, or Controlled Substances</b>

## Purpose

To provide the greatest opportunity for healthy student growth and development by supporting an educational environment that is free from tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, and other impairing substances.

## Policy

Mission Public School is committed to providing a safe, caring, respectful, healthy, and productive working and learning environment, where students, employees, and other members of the school community are protected from adverse effects of impairing substances.

All employees and volunteers are expected to perform their work safely, competently, and efficiently, without limitation from the use or after-effects of impairing substances.

All students are expected to participate in their learning without limitation from the use or after-effects of impairing substances.

No employee, volunteer, student, or visitor is permitted to use, consume, or distribute, tobacco, vapes, alcohol, cannabis, illicit or nonprescriptive drugs, or prescription drugs being used in a non-prescriptive way, in any school district building or facility, in any school district vehicle, on any school district property including athletic fields and parking lots, on any public property neighbouring a school, or at a school function in the community.

No employee, volunteer, student, or visitor is permitted to be impaired by, directly or by the after-effects of, alcohol, cannabis, illicit or non-prescriptive drugs, or prescription drugs being used in a non-prescriptive way, while working, volunteering, dropping off or picking up a student, attending school, or attending a school event.

## Exemptions

### 1. *Ceremonial Tobacco Exemption*

- a) For thousands of years, natural tobacco has been an integral part of Indigenous culture in many parts of British Columbia and Canada. Used in ritual, ceremony and prayer, tobacco is considered a sacred plant with healing and spiritual benefits.
- b) Tobacco may be used for Indigenous cultural purposes, in accordance with applicable protocols and administrative procedures.

### 2. *Clarke Theatre Alcohol Exemption*

- a) Visitors may not use or consume alcohol in any school district building EXCEPT within the Cafetorium for events scheduled in the Clarke Theatre or Cafetorium, unless an alternate location is approved by the Board of Education, in accordance with the alcohol consumption procedures that regulate alcohol distribution and consumption during events.
- b) Clarke Theatre Events that include the distribution of alcohol, must be organized to prevent any interaction between youth and alcohol consumption.

### 3. Cannabis Medical Exemption

- a) Employees or students are exempt from the prohibition on consumption of cannabis in/on school property if the following conditions are met:
  - i. The cannabis possessed and consumed is medical cannabis.
  - ii. The employee or student carries proof of authority to possess medical cannabis (or in the case of a student, the proof is on file with the school principal, superintendent, or board).
  - iii. The employee or minor student's parent/guardian has notified the school's principal, superintendent, or board of their authority to possess medical cannabis.
  - iv. The employee or student's health care practitioner directs consumption of cannabis at intervals which overlap with regular school hours, activities, or events.
  - v. The employee or student does not smoke or vape the cannabis.
- b) Employees have a positive duty to be fit for work and must inform the school district if there is some impairment associated with the medical use of cannabis. If there is such impairment, the school district will consider whether it is possible to accommodate the employee, in consultation, as applicable, with the Mission Teachers Union (MTU), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 593, the Mission Principals or Vice-Principals Association (MPVPA) or other professional association, that may include a change in shift, hours, position, or duties.

#### **Guidelines**

The school district will develop procedures to assist students and employees to address addiction issues, and reduce harm from intoxicating, banned or controlled substances.

**Date of Board Approval: December 15, 2015**

**Amended: Approved in principle, November 19, 2024  
March 11, 2025**

*Legal Reference: Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act, Section 2.2  
Cannabis Control Regulation: Section 18, 23, 24*

*Cross Reference: Operations Community and After School Use Procedures  
Operations Heritage Park Community Event Alcohol Service Procedures*