

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD	<i>Title:</i> NO-SMOKING POLICY A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO A NEGATIVE ISSUE	
<i>Source:</i> Tobacco Act, Bill 84 Educational Adv. Committee Director General	<i>Adopted:</i> ETSB01-06-104 2001-06-28 Effective as of 2001-06-28	<i>Reference Number:</i> P018

Preamble:

The Eastern Townships School Board has established a smoke free environment within all the facilities that it governs. Coupled with the recently adopted legislation banning smoking in schools/centres is the added element that no provisions for creating a smoking area within the school/centre can be enacted. The Eastern Townships School Board intends to demonstrate in this policy that the education of our students and personnel must reflect a comprehensive approach to tobacco use prevention and health promotion.

The comprehensive approach requires a well developed health education curriculum including tobacco prevention programs, easy access to smoking cessation programs, social support in the home and community, and a consistent, healthy environment where non-smoking is the norm.

Objectives:

The object of this policy is to effectively deal with the issue of smoking by providing a positive and constructive approach. It is also intended to reinforce to all persons within the Eastern Townships School Board that the facilities will remain Smoke Free environments.

This policy bans smoking, at all times, within schools/centres, campuses, school buses, and at all school events, including field trips. The policy is applicable to all personnel working for the Eastern Townships School Board, as well as to volunteers.

Policy:

The Eastern Townships School Board, in recognition of its responsibilities under the Tobacco Act, Bill 84, and intent on setting exemplary role models for the students for whom the Board is responsible supports the following:

1. The development of greater awareness within our students to the inherent dangers and problems that smoking generates.
2. Development and application of a positive learning context and the application of sanctions that would be generated at the local level, in strict compliance with guidelines provided within this policy.

There are four domains that present the context by which the schools and centres will implement the policy:

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1. Health Education and the Prevention of Tobacco Use:

Within the designated course offerings, by the school/centre administrator and in consultation with the teachers, health education curricula should emphasize the development of decision-making and assertiveness skills, critical thinking, and self-esteem through both subject matter and appropriate teaching techniques. A planned program for elementary and high school grades requires the allocation of sufficient classroom time, adequately trained staff and effective educational materials. The tobacco use prevention component of the curricula must incorporate the latest knowledge in terms of goals, focus, duration, resources and reinforcement of the program.

2. Intervention and Support Services:

Students and staff who are using tobacco products should have ready access to smoking cessation information and programs, as well as support once they have quit. Teachers, guidance counsellors, school health nurses and other school professionals must be well informed on how to support those who want to stop smoking or maintain the decision to quit. This is best accomplished through close collaboration with the school board, health units and voluntary health agencies for referral, programs and support both within schools/centres and in the community. Additional approaches incorporating guidance, psychological support, crisis intervention and health clinic services for the youth must be instilled. It is the joint responsibility of the school board and the schools/centres to ensure that this collaborative approach is developed and maintained.

3. Social Support:

Support in the home and community is central to preventing and reducing tobacco use by youth. Such support includes tobacco and health programs for families, public awareness campaigns, regular smoking prevalence surveys, media exposure, mentorship approach for high-risk youth, and the mobilization of self-help groups to provide peer support for healthy lifestyle choices.

4. A Consistent, Healthy Environment:

The overall environment in the school/centre and home should support a consistent message that non-smoking is the norm. This means that all of our schools/centres, head office and auxiliary facilities should have the policy well publicized and effective enforcement procedures in place.

Application

The responsibility for policy enforcement rests with the assigned school/centre administrators, Governing Boards-through the acceptance of the discipline code and related staff. The reporting of infractions is to be made immediately to the delegated authority. The development and application of sanctions must incorporate the four components of this policy and be clearly

communicated to all students, parents and employees at the commencement of each school year. A copy of the approach and sanctions regarding No Smoking is to be forwarded by each school and centre to the Office of the Director General, so as to ensure that the intent and spirit of the policy are adhered to. School/Centre administrators will ensure that an active no smoking program has been integrated into the local educational programs. School/Centre administrators will determine, in consultation with staff, the most appropriate time and format for the integration of the no smoking program.

The No-Smoking Policy will be applicable to all rental policies, ententes, etc. with third parties, without exception. In those cases whereby the school board shares a campus and/or building, the school board will initiate contact and ensure the board policy is explained with the intention to prohibit smoking in the building and on the campus. Schools with this type of deed of establishment will ensure that the Governing Boards and/or administration of the institutions meet to discuss and implement the stated objective of this policy.

Volunteers and or parents must abide by the no-smoking rules when in the company of a student.

The Director General or delegated authority will report to the appropriate Board Committee of the No-Smoking programs and sanctions that schools/centres have implemented by mid-October of each school year.

The Director General is responsible for the application of this policy, and to ensure conformity with the Tobacco Act, Bill 84.

This policy should be proactively communicated to students, staff, parents and the community on a regular basis.

Sources:

Canadian Association for School Health;
Canadian Council of Smoking and Health;
Health and Welfare Canada;
Calgary School Board-Policy and Procedures
NCREL-United States