

Cannabis Legalization and Impacts for B.C. K-12 Education



Cannabis (in the form of: plants, seeds, dried or fresh buds, and oil) has been legal for purchase, possession and use by those over the age of 19 in B.C. since October 17, 2018. While many laws were updated, it continues to be illegal for youth under 19 to buy, possess or use cannabis in B.C.

As of October 17, 2019, cannabis edibles, extracts and topicals will be legal for purchase, possession and use by those over the age of 19 in B.C. It is expected that, due to licensing requirements and restrictions, a limited selection of products will appear gradually in physical or online stores, and no earlier than mid-December 2019.

Use of cannabis on school properties will continue to be against the law, along with tobacco smoking and vaping. Smoking of vaping tobacco or cannabis is also illegal on playgrounds, sports fields, skate parks and other places where children and youth spend time.

The new *Cannabis Act* has several measures that help prevent youth from accessing cannabis. Like current restrictions on advertising for tobacco products, the *Cannabis Act* helps discourage youth cannabis use by prohibiting products that are appealing to youth, prohibiting packaging or labelling that are appealing to youth, selling cannabis through self-service displays or vending machines, and promoting cannabis, except in narrow circumstances where youth could not see the promotion.

The Ministry of Education is committed to supporting student success. A major component of this is ensuring healthy and effective learning environments so that all students feel safe. Schools continue to be substance-free environments where students and educators can engage in proactive conversations about healthy lifestyle



choices. B.C.'s curriculum currently offers a variety of opportunities for teachers to discuss recreational cannabis use with students. Concepts related to substance use are found in every grade of the Physical and Health Education (PHE) curriculum from Kindergarten through Grade 10 and in the Grade 11 and 12 elective courses.

Learn More

- › For further information regarding the legalization of cannabis please visit:
 - [Government of Canada – Cannabis laws and regulations](#)
 - [Get Cannabis Clarity](#)
 - [BC Public School Employers' Association Bulletin No. 2018-04: New Cannabis Regulations](#)
 - [BC Public School Employers' Association – Impairing Substances in the Workplace Toolkit](#)

- › The Ministry of Education has also updated the [Expect Respect and A Safe Education \(erase\) website](#) to provide students, parents, caring adults and educators with information and resources to support healthy and effective learning environments. The refreshed *erase* site includes a section about substance use that is updated regularly to provide information and resources related to overdose, cannabis, vaping, and other substances.