

Cannabis Legalization – frequently asked questions

1. What does the legalization of cannabis mean in Burnaby's schools?

- Marijuana is still illegal for anyone under 19, and just like other controlled substances such as alcohol, we don't allow cannabis in our schools.
- Our existing policies and [Code of Conduct](#) still apply; they already prohibit intoxication, as well as smoking of any substance, vaping, or drinking on school property.
- When issues arise we deal with it through support, education, and compassion. We work to figure out what's happening with the student and address the underlying causes contributing to the behaviour. We will continue to follow that approach. While we are compassionate, safety is critical and we enforce our school policies.

2. What is the Burnaby School District doing to inform people?

- Legalization is an opportunity for more conversations and education about the effects of cannabis usage. The District has dedicated staff who talk to students about prevention, health, addiction, and the impact of substance abuse. Our staff will continue to provide that education.
- Staff have been briefed and an information session for parents about legalization and what that means in a school setting is planned for January 2019. The bottom line is all of our policies prohibiting intoxication or controlled substances in schools still apply, regardless of the legal change.

3. How does the District provide education around substance use prevention and health?

- The District has a Safe and Caring Schools team that provides education in schools for staff, students, and parents. Within that team is the Substance Use Prevention and Health Promotion Worker. She offers: training for staff regarding how to create a safe environment for students to be able to talk about substances; support for staff for when they have concerns about a student's substance use; and, education about how to talk to your child.
- As well, the health promotion worker is trained to assess the level of concern and, if appropriate, create a targeted intervention plan involving the family, as well as both District and community supports. She can also provide referrals to community services, counselling, and/or detox.
- Additionally, other partners – such as Fraser Health and RCMP School Liaisons – provide education in schools about health concerns and substance use.

4. What resources are available for me, as a parent or guardian, to learn more about the effects of cannabis use on health for underage users?
 - There are various ways you can access resources in the community or through your health provider. Here is one example entitled [Cannabis: What Parents/Guardians and Caregivers Need to Know](#), which was created for school boards by an organization in Ontario.

5. I want to talk to my child about cannabis use, where can I find information about how to have that conversation?
 - There are local community agencies that can support you with information about how to have a conversation with your child about cannabis or other substance-related concerns. An example is [Odyssey I Boys and Girls Club](#). There are also resources available, such as: [Drug Free Kids: Cannabis Talk Kit Know How to Talk with Your Teen](#).

6. I still have concerns about this, who can I talk to?
 - Please connect with your student's Principal or school counsellor, either of whom would be pleased to talk with you or connect you with the District's Substance Use Prevention and Health Promotion Worker.