

# New School Rules: cellphones, vaping and cannabis

Ontario has introduced the most comprehensive plan in Canada to reduce distractions in classrooms and improve the health of children.

## Cellphone use in schools

Students' use of mobile devices in schools is now restricted during instructional time.

These changes will:

- help improve learning in the classroom
- keep kids focused
- promote better mental health and well-being

Cellphones are not permitted during instructional time for students in Grades 7 to 12, except if the teacher allows it. For students in kindergarten to Grade 6, this applies to the entire school day.

If a student does not store their cellphone out of sight and turned off or set to silent mode, they will be asked to place it in a storage area in the classroom for the duration of the class. Students who refuse to give up their device will be sent to the principal's office. Principals will review each situation and decide the appropriate response.

In some circumstances, use of a mobile device is allowed during learning time when:

- it is used for educational purposes, as directed by a teacher
- it is needed for health or medical reasons
- it supports special education needs



## Vaping and smoking

Students cannot possess or use tobacco products, e-cigarettes (vapes) or nicotine products at school. If your child is found with any these items, they must be given up and you will be notified immediately.

## Cannabis

Whether at school or at a school event, students cannot possess recreational cannabis, be under the influence of recreational cannabis or give others cannabis for recreational use. If your child is found with recreational cannabis — it must be given up and you will be notified immediately.

Students can possess and use medical cannabis at school for their own personal medical purposes if they follow all **laws about medical cannabis**.

## About the provincial Code of Conduct

Our provincial Code of Conduct policy sets clear standards of behaviour for school communities. Its purpose is to help schools create a positive school environment and support student achievement and well-being.

We appreciate your support and partnership in helping to create a healthy learning environment at school.

To learn more about the new rules and our provincial Code of Conduct, please visit **[ontario.ca/SchoolRules](https://ontario.ca/SchoolRules)**.