



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

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Barry MacDougall, Director of Education

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Saskatoon Public Schools, we know that student wellness is essential to lifelong learning and academic performance. Our students are instilled with an understanding of healthy lifestyle choices and the impact such choices can have on their overall safety and well-being now and into the future.

With the legalization of cannabis today, you may have questions about if this societal change will impact your child's school. The legal age for usage in Saskatchewan is 19 and the provincial legislation prohibits the use of cannabis on school property. Therefore, there is no change in our operations regarding cannabis.

Our lessons to students will be unaffected. Following the provincial curriculum, our teachers introduce students to positive lifestyle choices in health and wellness classes starting in Grade 3 with lessons about the use of harmful substances. In Grade 5, students learn about peer pressure and how it can result in negative behaviours, such as substance abuse. Students also learn about health promotions and advertising that may impact personal standards and decisions. In Grade 7, students examine interpersonal skills for addressing and managing peer pressure. In Grade 8, students delve deeper into understanding responsible health actions related to addiction.

In Grade 9, students analyze decision making for their personal health and the effect of addiction on themselves and others around them. In Grade 10, alcohol and drug use are part of the examination of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

The legalization of cannabis will not change these lessons as it is important for students to understand that cannabis remains harmful, especially to young brains and bodies that are still developing.

If you would like to learn more, the Government of Saskatchewan has created a [website](#) with helpful information for parents regarding cannabis. Along with tips for talking to children about cannabis, the website also provides links to numerous health and safety resources pertaining to drugs and alcohol.

We are committed to providing safe learning and work environments for our students and staff members. If you have any questions, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Shane Skjerven, Deputy Director
Saskatoon Public Schools