

Smoke free schools - policy

Department of Education and Training



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1. Policy

The Northern Territory (NT) Department of Education and Training (department) prioritises the safety and wellbeing of all staff and students.

To promote the health and wellbeing of all staff and students, smoking or the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) is not permitted on school grounds, including within 10 metres from an entry point to, or boundary of, a school.

Any reference to smoking in this policy also applies to the use of e-cigarettes or vaping.

2. Purpose

This policy is consistent with the requirements under the *Education Act 2015* (the Act), the *Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011*, the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Vic) (National Law) and the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* (NSW) (National Regulations), and aims to reduce harm to people's health by:

- discouraging people from smoking
- reducing children's exposure to the harmful effects of tobacco smoke.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all NT Government schools and services including:

- all activities that take place on school grounds including preschool, early childhood education and care services, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and
- anyone on school grounds during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents or carers or the wider community, such as sporting groups.

The policy also extends to school organised events held off school grounds, including excursions and camps, sports carnivals, graduation celebrations and other like activities.

4. Breaches

Breaches of the Smoke free schools policy will be managed in line with relevant legislation and department policy, and may result in disciplinary action or being issued a trespass notice by the school.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1. Principals

Are responsible for ensuring that:

- implementing and promoting the Smoke free schools policy
- displaying No Smoking signs at the entry points and boundary to school grounds
- taking appropriate action following a breach of the Smoke free schools policy
- ensuring that individuals or groups that use school premises comply with the Smoke free schools policy

It is recommended that Principals:

- encourage employees who require support to comply with the ban to:
 - contact Quitline by calling 13 78 48. Quitline is a friendly, confidential service with trained counsellors who provide practical advice tailored for each person
 - contact their general practitioner
 - access the employee assistance program (EAP)
- make tobacco and vaping education and information available to support students not to smoke or vape.

5.2. School Operations

Is responsible for:

- supporting schools with implementation of the Smoke free schools policy
- supporting schools with the management of breaches of the Smoke free schools policy.

6. Definitions

Term	Definition
Electronic cigarettes	Devices that deliver nicotine and other chemicals to the user via an aerosol vapour. The devices are designated to simulate the act of smoking tobacco cigarettes but do not involve the burning of tobacco. Non-nicotine products are also available. A range of names are used to describe the products, including, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), e-shisha, e-cigars, e-pipes, e-hookas, hookah-pens, vape-pipes and e-cigs.
Entry and boundary area	The area within 10 metres of the gate or similar entry point to the place; and if there is a boundary to the place, or a boundary is indicated by signage (including no smoking signs), and area within 10 metres of the boundary.
School	A government school, including preschool, established under the Education Act 2015.
School grounds	Includes all of the school's buildings and grounds.
Smoking	Releasing smoke or fumes from an ignited tobacco product and includes holding or controlling an ignited tobacco product. Any reference to smoke or smoking in this policy includes vaping or use of electronic cigarettes.
Vaping	Using the e-cigarette to generate or release an aerosol or vapour by electronic means for inhalation by the user in a manner that replicates, or produces an experience similar to, smoking.

7. Related legislation and policy

7.1. Legislation

Education Act 2015 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/EDUCATION-ACT-2015>

Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/EDUCATION-AND-CARE-SERVICES-NATIONAL-UNIFORM-LEGISLATION-ACT-2011>

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (Vic) - <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/education-and-care-services-national-law-act-2010>

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (NSW) - <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>

Tobacco Control Act 2022 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/TOBACCO-CONTROL-ACT-2002>

Tobacco Control Regulations 2022 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/TOBACCO-CONTROL-REGULATIONS-2002>

7.2. Policy

Community use of school facilities policy and guidelines - <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/school-communities#>

Trespass on school grounds - <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/school-operations#trespass-on-school-premises>

7.3. Resources

Employee Assistance Program - <https://ntgcentral.nt.gov.au/my-job/health-safety-and-wellbeing/counselling-employees>

Quitline - <https://www.quit.org.au/en>

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Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1	July 2019	Quality School Systems and Support	First version
2	October 2022	School Operations	Administrative amendments to align roles and responsibilities to the structural alignment in effect from 1 July 2022, including NTG template and minor formatting. Contemporise to reference the use of electronic cigarettes as per NT Health's <i>Smoke Free Policy</i> line.
3	January 2026	School Operations	Change of name, removal of designated smoking area on school grounds, new NTG template.