

PPM 128 Policies Consultation Results

September 2024





Consultation Method

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Policy Consultations

We encourage all members of the YCDSB community to review the draft policies listed below and provide feedback through the consultation surveys. Your input will be carefully considered during the revision process to help ensure that our policies remain strong, effective, and are aligned with the mission and values of the Board.

Policy Number	Draft Policy	Consultation Survey	Response Due By
311	Digital Discipleship (Student Use of Technology)	Draft Policy 311 Digital Discipleship (Student Use of Technology) Consultation Form	September 15 th 2024
610	Cannabis, Electronic Cigarettes, Tobacco – A Smoke-Free Environment	Draft Policy 610 Cannabis, Electronic Cigarettes, Tobacco – A Smoke-Free Environment Consultation Form	September 15 th 2024
617 (formerly 117)	Code of Conduct	Draft Policy 617 Code of Conduct Consultation Form	September 15 th 2024

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CONTACT US

If you have any questions or require assistance with the consultation process, please contact the Associate Director's Office, Ext. 13836.

Draft Policy 311 Digital Discipleship (Student Use of Technology) Consultation Results

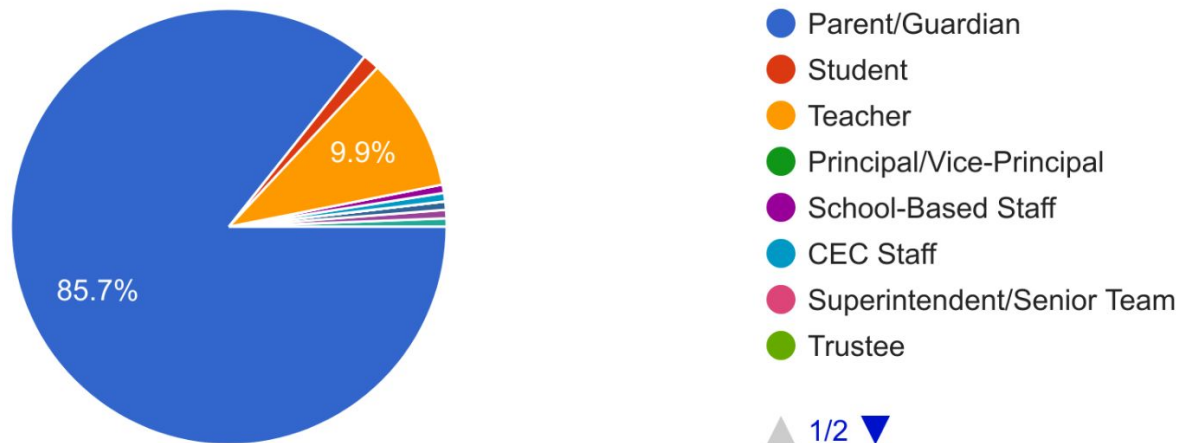




Population Consulted

I will be completing this survey as (please choose one):

161 responses



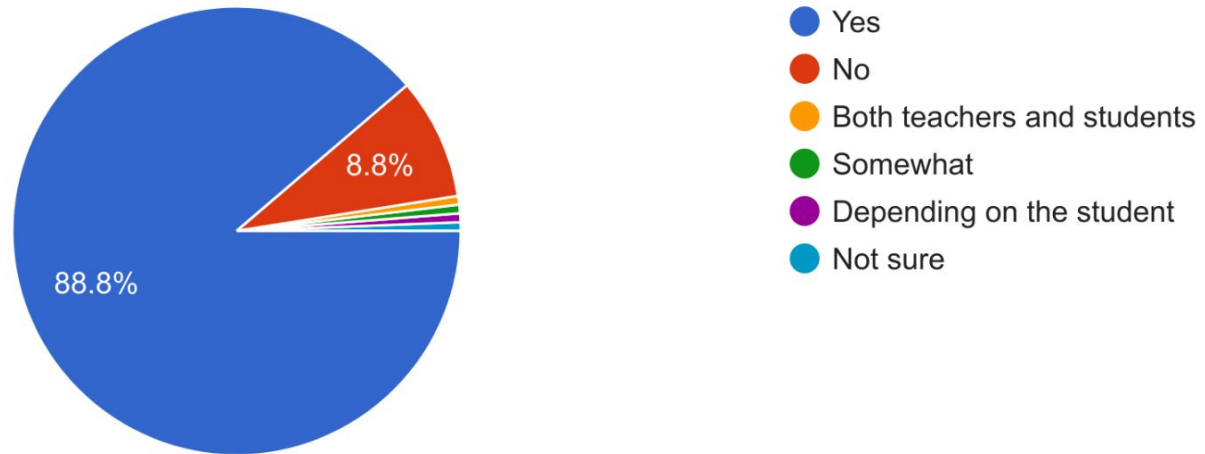
- 161 total responses
- Majority - 85.7% Parents/Guardians
- 9.9% Teachers
- 1.2% Students



Screen Time Issue

Do you believe that screen time/personal device use is an issue for students in your school community?

160 responses



- Majority - 88.8% responded yes
- 8.8% responded no



Reasons for Screen Time Answer

- A majority of respondents explained their concern about the excessive use of personal devices by students in schools
- **Key themes:**
 - Distraction from Learning (students on social media/games, leads to loss of focus/productivity)
 - Addiction and Mental Health (students addicted to their device, issues with bullying, sleep deprivation & social anxiety)
 - Cheating and Misuse (students using phones to cheat during tests/exams)
 - Lack of Teacher Enforcement (teachers inability to enforce rules due to liability concerns)
- Many respondents advocate for stricter policies or outright bans on device use during school hours
- Some respondents believe that students should learn to manage their own responsibilities and that phones can be useful - however guidelines/controls should still be in place



Challenges with Enforcement & Proposed Strategies

Question: What challenges do you anticipate in enforcing this policy within the classroom or school environment? What strategies do you believe could be implemented to help educators/administrators effectively address and overcome these challenges?

- **Key Challenges:**

- Inconsistent Enforcement (unequal enforcement across schools and classrooms)
- Student Resistance (students resisting policy due to habits/addiction, students using devices in secret)
- Parental Pushback/Safety Concerns (parents may object to phones being confiscated and may argue that they need to remain connected with their children during school hours)
- Technological Workarounds (students using VPN's & Data)
- Teacher Burden (educators may struggle to manage device usage without sacrificing instructional time - increased stress/burden)



Challenges with Enforcement & Proposed Strategies

Question: What challenges do you anticipate in enforcing this policy within the classroom or school environment? What strategies do you believe could be implemented to help educators/administrators effectively address and overcome these challenges?

- **Proposed Strategies:**

- Consistency in Application (ensuring consistent application of the policy with clear consequences)
- Parent Engagement (involving parents early on, ensuring they understand and support the policy and educate them of the dangers of excessive screen time)
- Education and Role Modeling (educators should model responsible technology use)
- Strict Enforcement and Consequences (storing devices in lockers/pouches, using progressive discipline)
- Technological Safeguards (restricting networks and non-educational content)



Effective Use of Personal Mobile Devices

Question: In your view, how can personal mobile devices be effectively used for student learning during instructional time/work time?

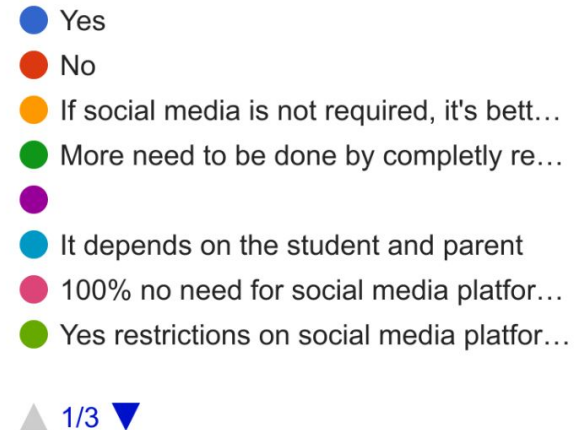
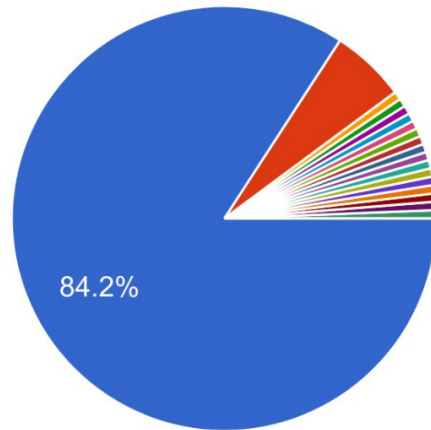
- A majority of respondents believe personal mobile devices are more likely to distract students and that the potential for misuse outweighs any educational benefits
- Alternatives were suggested such as school provided devices (Chromebooks or laptops) if needed for educational purposes
 - Some respondents prefer traditional educational tools (e.g, books, paper) arguing that they are sufficient for learning and avoid distractions
- Some respondents acknowledge that personal devices could be useful for specific tasks like research or accessing certain apps if used under strict supervision



Social Media Restrictions on School Networks

Do you feel the restrictions on social media platforms within school networks, as outlined in PPM 128, are appropriate for fostering a safe and productive learning environment?

158 responses



- 84.2% responded yes
- 5.7% responded no



Reasons Social Media Restrictions on School Networks Answer

- A majority of respondents believe that restrictions on social media within school networks are essential for fostering a safe and productive learning environment
 - A majority of respondents argue that social media is a major distraction, contributes to cyberbullying, and negatively impacts students' mental well-being
 - Some respondents advocate for a complete ban on all social media platforms including applications Youtube during school hours
 - There are concerns that students will bypass restrictions using data or VPN's, suggesting that these workarounds should also be addressed



Additional Comments & Feedback

Question: Do you have any additional comments or general feedback regarding the overall content of the draft policy?

- General Approval:
 - Many respondents express overall support for the draft policy, noting that it's a good starting point for managing personal mobile device use and minimizing distractions
- Concerns/Criticisms:
 - Implementation and Enforcement (lack of clear enforcement guidelines and potential difficulties in applying the policy consistently)
 - Timing (some comments suggest the policy would have been more effective if implemented earlier in the year)
 - Exceptions (need for exceptions for medical reasons & concerns about misuse)
- Suggestions:
 - Some respondents ask for clearer guidelines for teachers on enforcing rules & detailed consequences for repeated misuse
 - Some believe that a broader strategy including education on digital citizenship and better communication with students and parents is essential

Draft Policy 610 Cannabis, Electronic Cigarettes, Tobacco – A Smoke-Free Environment Consultation Results

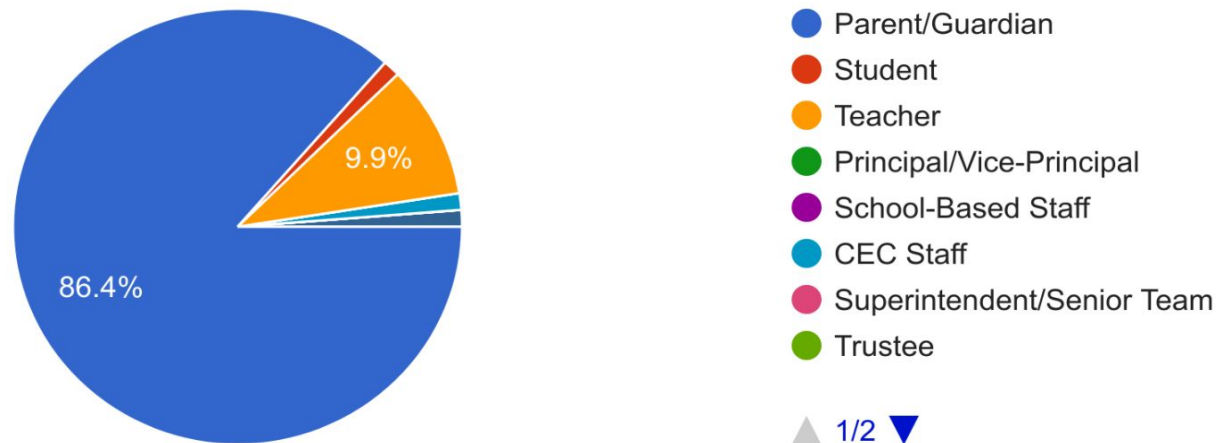




Population Consulted

I will be completing this survey as (please choose one):

81 responses



- 81 total responses
- Majority - 86.4% Parents/Guardians
- 9.9% Teachers
- 1.2% Students



E-Cigarette (Vaping) Issue

Do you believe that e-cigarette (vaping) use is an issue for students in your school community?

79 responses



- Majority - 81% responded yes
- 12.7% responded no



Reasons for E-Cigarette (Vaping) Answer

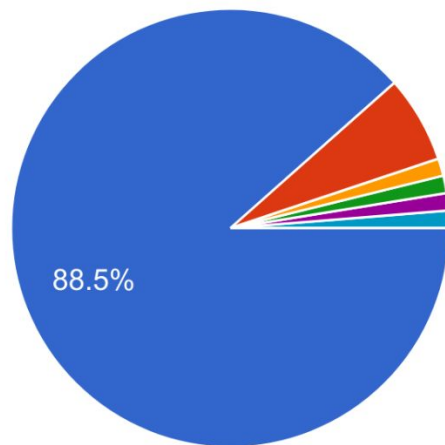
- A majority of respondents believe that vaping is an issue in their school community
 - They have witnessed increased use among students, especially in washrooms, leading to health concerns, fire alarms, and discomfort for other students
- Some respondents pointed to the addictive nature, targeted marketing towards teens, and peer pressure as key contributing factors
- Other respondents stressed the need for stricter bans and more education on the health risks of vaping
- A few respondents did not see vaping as an issue in their school community, either because they have not witnessed it or believe it's a broader societal problem, not limited to schools



Ensuring a Smoke-Free Environment

Do you think the draft policy sufficiently addresses the needs of students, staff, and visitors in creating a smoke-free environment?

78 responses



- Yes
- No
- Policy is one thing, implementation requires staff effort, therein lies the problem.
- They're going to do it anyway
- I think more needs to be done but I think it's better than nothing
-

- Majority - 88.5% responded yes
- 6.4% responded no



Reasons for Ensuring a Smoke-Free Environment

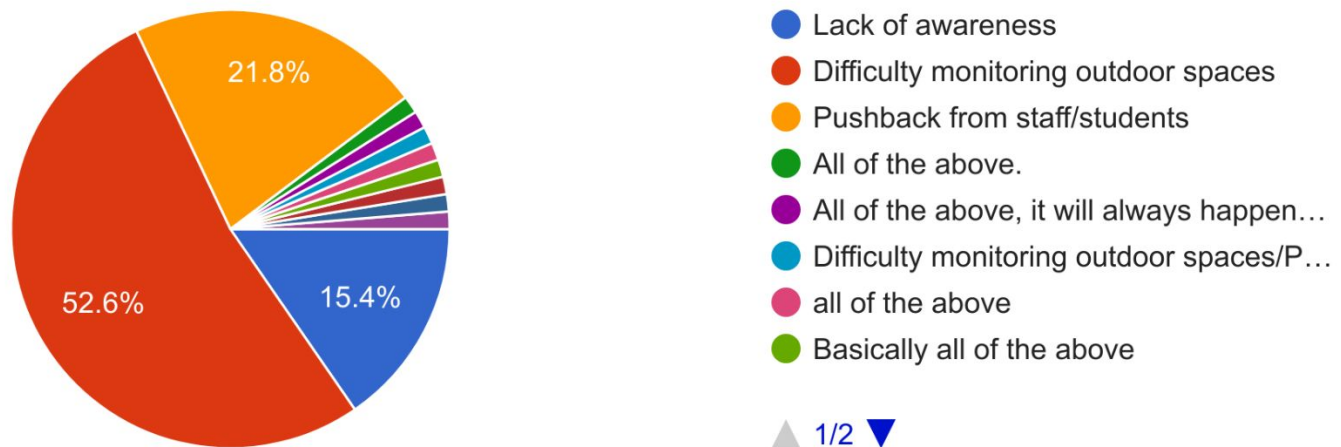
Answer

- Many respondents agreed that smoking should be strictly prohibited on school grounds, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a healthy and safe environment
- Enforcement:
 - A few noted that the new vape detectors and existing policies seem sufficient but stressed the need for consequences to be clearly defined and consistently enforced
 - Others mentioned that while the policy is a good start, better support for educators, clearer enforcement measures, and educational sessions for students and parents are necessary to ensure effectiveness
- Overall, while many see the policy as a positive step, stronger actions and greater accountability are necessary

Challenges with Enforcement

What challenges do you foresee in enforcing this policy across all Board premises and at school-sanctioned activities?

78 responses



- 52.6% responded - Difficulty monitoring outdoor spaces
- 21.8% responded - Pushback from staff/students
- 15.4% responded - Lack of awareness
- A few responded 'all of the above'



Reasons for Challenges with Enforcement

Answer

- Key Challenges:
 - Respondents expressed that it is challenging to monitor large school spaces, especially in areas such as washrooms and outdoor areas, given the student to teacher ratios and limited staff capacity
 - Some respondents emphasized the lack of respect students have for teachers and school rules, and that the normalization of vaping makes students more resistant to policy adherence
 - There is concern about the inconsistent enforcement by staff, especially if school administrators do not fully back the policy
- Proposed strategies:
 - Many respondents emphasized the need to educate students and parents on the harmful effects of smoking (e.g workshops, guest speakers)
 - Some respondents proposed having routine patrols by staff, teachers, or even community officers to regularly monitor school property
 - Respondents stressed that for enforcement to work, there must be consistent and clear consequences for violations (e.g suspensions, fines)



Additional Comments & Feedback

Question: Do you have any additional comments or general feedback regarding the overall content of the draft policy?

- General Approval:
 - Many respondents are happy with the content of the draft policy and appreciate the steps being taken toward creating a healthier and safer environment
- Suggestions:
 - Several respondents emphasized the need for consistent implementation and support for the policy across all levels, highlighting that policies are only effective if they are enforced properly
 - Some suggested adding measures like enhanced monitoring, such as vape detectors and clear disciplinary actions, to better manage and control usage

Draft Policy 617 (formerly 117) Code of Conduct Consultation Results

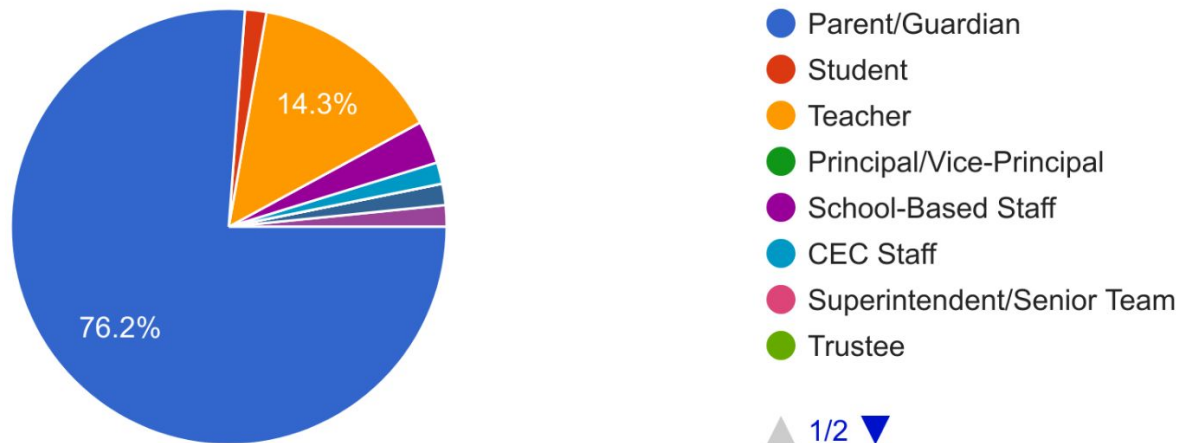




Population Consulted

I will be completing this survey as (please choose one):

63 responses



- 63 total responses
- Majority - 76.2% Parents/Guardians
- 14.3% Teachers
- 1.6% Students



Missing Components

Question: Do you believe any essential components are missing from the draft policy? If so, please identify any additional provisions you feel would strengthen the policy.

- No Major Gaps:
 - Most respondents felt the draft policy was comprehensive and did not identify any significant missing components
- Suggestions:
 - Some respondents suggested including stricter rules on cell phone usage for elementary students, particularly during non-instructional times and recess
 - There was a recommendation for staff to follow the same cell phone use policy as students and to direct parent communication through personal rather than work emails
 - Concerns were raised about the enforcement of the policy, including the need for clear consequences for non-compliance and additional measures to police enforcement, possibly involving teachers, students, or volunteers



Removing Components

Question: Are there specific sections of the policy that you believe should be revised or removed? If applicable, please explain which sections and provide rationale or suggestions for improvement.

- No Major Revisions:
 - Most respondents expressed satisfaction with the policy as it stands and did not suggest significant revisions
- Suggestions:
 - Some respondents suggested revising the policy to require all students, not just those up to grade 6, to have their phones off and put away throughout the school day
 - There was also a call for staff to adhere to the same cell phone use policy
 - Calls for additional clarity on the consequences of policy breaches and ensuring that policies are implemented effectively



Code of Conduct Expectations

Question: Do you believe the expectations set out in the revised draft policy are clear and easy to understand for all members of the school community (students, parents, staff, etc.)? Why or why not?

- General Agreement:
 - Most respondents find the expectations in the revised draft policy clear and straightforward for all members of the school community
- Suggestions:
 - Some respondents suggested the need for minor clarifications, such as specifying what constitutes "instructional time" and addressing potential issues with the policy's length and readability
 - A few respondents raised concerns about whether the policy's expectations will be consistently enforced and whether the consequences for non-compliance are clearly outlined and actionable



Additional Comments & Feedback

Question: Do you have any additional comments or general feedback regarding the overall content of the draft policy?

- General Support:
 - Many respondents expressed support for the policy and had no further comments or felt the draft policy was comprehensive and well-written
- Suggestions:
 - There was a suggestion to address emerging technologies, such as AI tools and deepfakes, in the context of digital misconduct.
 - Adding a clear stance against littering and vandalism was recommended
 - There was a suggestion to create a one-page summary of the policy's main points for easier reference