



OAPCE in Action

PPM 128 Task Force / Cell Phone & Vaping

With the Minister of Education preview announcement of PPM 128 pertaining to Smart Phone and Vaping Restrictions in Schools across the province, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) is one of about 30 partners that were invited to contribute vital parent insight and recommendations towards the long-term action plan required to support this program in schools as part of their Task Force.

Some of the recommendations brought forward by OAPCE were the following:

- Recommendations for funding of outside expert resources that would include, mental health and addiction coping experts as well as life/career coaching and mentoring experts. These experts would be made available to all students.
- Student involvement in the development of the new “Code of Conduct” signage and messaging that would be posted at school facilities. Possible theme **“Do Your Part, From The Start - of Class”**.
- Commitment of adequate government funding to OAPCE to help share and deliver resources to parents..
- A Parent/Guardian support tools package that would keep parents aware, promote parent involvement and participation as well as provide parent resource tools.

- Ongoing annual “Best Practice” program updates/enhancements, based on program effectiveness/success benchmarks.
- Ongoing Parent/Student survey/feedback collection.
- In conclusion, to date implementation results across the various regions have been mixed in terms of results and effectiveness.
- Decision is unanimous that Ministry support, funding and oversight of initiative will be ongoing.
- Best practice policies collection will continue and be offered for respective regional adoption and implementation.
- Ministry funding for long-term support and education programs set to continue - this funding was sent to PIC’s across the province to provide strategies to parents for Cellphone/Vaping challenges.
- OAPCE is set to develop parental/student support program(s) with related industry partner experts.
- OAPCE to continue to monitor and be involved in development dialogue with various regional partners and ministry, as well as reflect parent interests/concerns/support recommendations.

For more information on PPM 128 you can find it here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-128>

OAPCE will continue to advocate for parents across the province on the ongoing implementation of this Policy.