



As you may be aware, Michigan voters recently approved a law allowing adult recreational use of marijuana throughout the state. Michigan's new marijuana law will take effect on December 6, 2018.

Rochester Community Schools would like to take a moment to inform our families about the law as it relates to our school community.

Use on School Property

The legalization of recreational marijuana does not change the fact that marijuana, alcohol, and other drugs are prohibited from our school campuses. Use of marijuana, including being under the influence, is strictly prohibited on school property. Our schools are, and will remain, drug free zones.

Workplace

Rochester Community Schools will continue to observed Board Policy 3206, Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace, which states:

"The District will maintain a workplace free of alcohol and illegal drugs, as well as prescription drugs for which an employee does not have a current, valid prescription. An employee or volunteer who is found to have unlawfully manufactured, distributed, dispensed, possessed or used alcohol or any drug in the workplace shall be disciplined, up to and including discharge from employment. Similarly, an employee or volunteer who is found to have been present in the workplace while under the influence of illegal drugs, prescription drugs for which the employee or volunteer does not have a current, valid prescription or alcohol will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge."

Use in Public

While private use of marijuana by residents 21 years and older will be decriminalized, smoking marijuana in public will be a civil infraction. Michigan businesses will continue to be smoke-free environments. Individual cities will also have the right to regulate or prohibit marijuana businesses in their towns.¹

Driving

Michigan has a zero-tolerance policy for drugged driving. Any amount of a Schedule 1 controlled substance in a driver's body, to include THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), is illegal.²

Federal Law

Federal law continues to treat marijuana as a controlled substance, which means the use of marijuana is illegal according to the federal government.

Dangers of Use

The younger marijuana use begins, the higher the risk of addiction.³ One in six teens who start using marijuana become addicted.⁴ Each year, more teens enter treatment with a primary diagnosis of marijuana addiction than any other illegal drug combined.⁵

¹ *Marijuana will be legal in Michigan on Dec. 6: What to know* (Gray, 2018)

² Department of State, Substance Abuse and Driving, https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1627_8665_9076-24488--,00.html.

³ *Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know*, National Institute on Drug Abuse (2016)

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⁵ *National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, INC.*