

Cannabis Action Plan Ideas – Secondary Schools

Curriculum, teaching and learning

Ophea – [Cannabis Education Resources](#) to provide educators and administrators access to evidence-informed information on substance use

- Cannabis – Secondary Activity Plans (grades 9-12): <https://ophea.net/cannabis-education-resources/cannabis-education-activity-plans/secondary-activity-plans>

CCSA - [Understanding Substance Use: Educators Guide](#) and the accompanying five [video modules](#) are designed for education professionals (e.g., teachers, guidance counsellors, coaches) working with youth from grades 6–12 to gain key knowledge, tools and resources on the following topics:

- Understanding Substance Use
- Understanding Stigma
- Understanding Cannabis Vaping
- Understanding Alcohol
- Understanding Impaired Driving

CCSA - [Talking pot with youth](#): A cannabis communication guide for youth allies

School Mental Health Ontario – [Cannabis Info Sheet: What Educators Need to Know](#)

Health Canada – [Public education resources](#) to help guide discussions about cannabis

[Promoting Mentally Healthy Schools and Resilience: Strategies for Educators](#)

This free module will equip educators with strategies to support mentally healthy schools and promote resilience among students (*developed by the Community Resilience Coalition of Guelph & Wellington in collaboration with the Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic District School Boards*)

[YMCA Youth Cannabis Knowledge Hub](#) – Evidence based information, resources and videos geared to youth, young adults, parents and professionals

Videos for Educators:

Students for Sensible Drug Policy- [How to Talk with Youth About Cannabis](#)

Students for Sensible Drug Policy- [Understanding Youth Cannabis Use](#)

Videos for Youth:

CCSA: [Are There Risks to Vaping Cannabis?](#)

CCSA: [How to Reduce the Risks of Vaping Cannabis](#)

University of Waterloo: [Youth Specific Effects of Early Cannabis Use](#)

School and Classroom Leadership

Provide opportunities for youth to be involved in creating, assisting, or leading cannabis education where appropriate (e.g. develop posters, create a school display).

Have students take turns reading sections of [The Blunt Truth: Useful Tips About Safer Ways to Use Cannabis](#) and discuss their thoughts around the messages. *This resource was developed for youth, by youth and can be downloaded for free.*

Have students participate in interactive online activity [The Highway Home](#) to increase the awareness of youth and young drivers with the risks and harms associated with drug-impaired driving.

Borrow the health unit's Wheel of Misfortune and have a group of students facilitate the activity for the class.

Raise awareness with staff, students, and families about school policies and/or codes of conduct

related to substance use.

- Educate students about Ontario laws:
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/cannabis-and-schools>
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/cannabis-laws>

Student Engagement

Listen and empower students to discuss cannabis and engage them in developing education and prevention activities for their class or the school (develop or work with an existing student-led committee to plan ideas).

Have students research local community supports and services (e.g. Connex Ontario, CMHA, Kids Help Phone) and plan creative approaches for sharing this information with the class and/or school.

Help students build skills to recognize substance-related influences and develop healthy decision-making & refusal skills (e.g. have students develop & role play various scenarios).

Social and Physical Environments

Raise awareness about the risks of cannabis use and community supports for youth and families, through [newsletter inserts](#), displays, bulletin boards, school website, etc.

Create a resource section in the library with information for students and staff.

Raise staff awareness and increase supervision of areas that may present a higher risk for substance use.

Promote positive mental health and create opportunities during the school day to support students and staff to develop resilience and cope with stress in healthy ways.

Home, School and Community Partnerships

Provide information, education, and resources to parents/caregivers about cannabis to encourage them to talk with the youth in their lives.

Partner with the Health Unit or other community partners to offer a cannabis education session for parents/parent council.

Raise awareness of the Parent Support Hub - A safe virtual space for parents to get guidance and support): <https://www.drugfreekidscanada.org/supporthub/>

Have various hard-copy resources available at school events

- CAMH - Cannabis: [What Parents/Guardians and Caregivers Need to Know](#)
- Drug Free Kids Canada - [Cannabis Talk Kit: Know How to Talk to Your Teen](#)