

## 1. Purpose:

While the benefits of hot meals, drinks and snacks in the comfort of the classroom at first may sound appealing, there have been numerous avoidable injuries in Ontario schools from heating/cooking appliances. Scalding and burn injuries have occurred from hot liquids being spilled on students while carrying cups to their desks, or by knocking cups off of desks, ledges, etc. In addition, portable space heaters pose injury hazards, as they can reach high temperatures quickly, causing burns if they are touched while in operation.

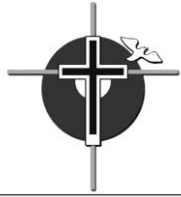
These types of hazards would not be present, or these incidents and injuries would not have occurred, if heating/cooking appliances were not present in classrooms.

The Ontario Fire Code also does not permit the use of appliances with a heating element in any room that does not have a fire-rated door. In most schools, typically only the staff room and any specialty classrooms (i.e. hospitality rooms) have fire-rated doors.

An appliance's increased load on the school's electrical wiring system is also a concern. On an individual basis, most personal electronic devices (and their charging stations) consume relatively small amounts of electricity. However, on a cumulative basis, with many people "plugging in," the extra power draw can be significant. When combined with the other electronic devices that are a part of modern classrooms and an aging wiring system, the risk of fire can increase if the electrical system is unable to handle the increased demand.

## 2. Procedure:

- 2.1 Small appliances for personal use which are not related to the programming needs of students must be kept in areas where they cannot be accessed by students (i.e. staff rooms) and are not permitted in classrooms or offices. Staff offices may contain only one appliance, as approved by the principal (except for an appliance with a heating element – in which case, the room must have a fire-rated door).
- 2.2 Appliances related to the programming needs of students will be allowed in specialty classrooms only (i.e. hospitality kitchens in secondary schools). Proper safety precautions must be in place (as per ONTARIO REGULATION 213/07 FIRE CODE, Section 2.1.2.2).



- 2.3 Appliances that are approved for use in staff rooms, staff offices or workspaces, or for the programming needs of students must be in good working condition and must have either CSA or ULC labels. These appliances must also be Energy Star rated.
- 2.4 It is advised that prior to the purchase of any appliances, the Purchasing department is consulted to ensure all standards are met.
- 2.5 Appliances must not be on moveable carts and must not be taken from room to room.
- 2.6 Approved appliances must be plugged directly into the wall, without the use of an extension cord or power bar.