

On May 30, 2023, Governor Tim Walz signed House File 100 into law, legalizing the use, possession, and cultivation of cannabis within Minnesota. Possession of cannabis by adults 21 and older is now legal as of August 1, 2023, but includes limits. With this change in the state law, students, faculty, and staff may be wondering how the new legislation impacts the MCAD community.

For MCAD, receipt of federal funds in the form of student loans, aid, and grants requires compliance with federal drug law. MCAD policies and federal law prohibit anyone from using, possessing, or distributing marijuana on MCAD property or at MCAD events, including off-campus events and related travel.

The use of recreational or medical marijuana in any form, including edibles and extracts, remains prohibited by Drug and Alcohol-Free Campus, MCAD Policy, and federal law. Federal law prohibiting marijuana use preempts state law. The possession, distribution, or consumption of marijuana is still a Schedule-1 drug violation under the federal Controlled Substance Act. MCAD must comply with this law. In addition, MCAD must follow the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 and prevent illicit use of drugs and alcohol abuse by students and employees on MCAD property and at college events.

MCAD does not allow faculty, staff, students, or visitors to possess marijuana on campus under any circumstance, regardless of medical status. The possession, use, or distribution of marijuana is still illegal and subject to prosecution under federal law, regardless of what state laws permit, and regardless of whether the federal government chooses to actively enforce federal law in the states that have legalized recreational marijuana use.

For your reference, please see MCAD Policies and Federal and State Laws:

10. Drugs and Alcohol on Campus for students, page 91 in the [Student Handbook](#)

8.7 Drugs and Alcohol for employees, page 59 in the [Staff Handbook](#)

Minnesota State law regarding marijuana use: [Chapter 63 Statute](#)

Federal law regarding marijuana use: [Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act](#)