

Tobacco Free Schools

Board Policy: A-21
Adopted: March 08, 1993
Revised: March 13, 2012

I. General Policy Statement

The Board recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety and environmental hazard for students, employees, visitors, and school facilities. The Board acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students and that the Board's acceptance of any use of tobacco products implies school approval, if not endorsement, of such use. In addition, the Board recognizes that it has an obligation to promote positive role models in schools and promote a healthy learning and working environment, free from unwanted smoke and tobacco for the students, employees and visitors to the school campus. Finally, the Board recognizes that it has a legal obligation pursuant to Title X of Public Law 103-227 (Child Protection Act) to provide schools that are 100% tobacco free.

II. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

1. "Tobacco Product" is defined as any product that contains or is made or derived from tobacco, and is intended for human consumption, including electronic cigarettes and all lighted and smokeless tobacco products.
2. "Tobacco Use" includes smoking, chewing, dipping or any other determined use of a defined tobacco product or counterfeit product.

III. Regulations

Accordingly, the Board enacts the following:

1. Students may not possess, display or use any tobacco product at any time on school premises, including school vehicles, or while participating in school-sponsored events. (SA-1: Student Conduct and Discipline)
2. No school employee, volunteer or visitor shall use or display any tobacco products on school system premises (owned, leased or contracted for), in school owned vehicles and at any school-sponsored "indoor" event. This prohibition will also apply to any organization that uses indoor school facilities. The prohibition of the display of tobacco products shall not extend to a display that has a legitimate instructional or pedagogical purpose.
3. Spectators will not be permitted to use or display any tobacco products at school-sponsored "outdoor" events while on school system property (owned, leased or contracted for). This will also apply to any organization that uses outdoor school property.

4. The school administration will consult with the Health Department and other appropriate organizations to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems and programs to encourage abstinence from the use of tobacco products.
5. School personnel will be provided notice of this policy through, handbooks, notices and other communication. In addition administrators will post signs in a manner and location that adequately notify staff, students, volunteers and visitors about prohibitions against the use of and display of tobacco products on school grounds and in buildings.
6. All school personnel shall adhere to this policy and other policies, rules or regulations addressing the use of tobacco products.
7. An employee who is determined to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions. These include but may not be limited to: counseling, attendance at tobacco clinics, warning, oral reprimand, written reprimand and possible dismissal.
8. Visitors and spectators found displaying or using tobacco products in a manner not consistent with this policy will be asked by the supervising school administrator to refrain from displaying or using tobacco while on school system property. If the person does not comply, he/she will be asked to leave the premises.

Legal References: G.S. 115C – 47(18) - 407; G.S. 115C – 325 (e); G.S. 14-313; P.L. 103-227