

TOBACCO USE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**Smoking and Background**

Smoking has been identified as a significant health problem in the United States. It is a leading cause of premature death, disease, and chronic disability in our country.

Smoking can be hazardous to health for both smokers and non-smokers. For smokers, it can contribute to heart attack, stroke, high blood pressure, emphysema, and several forms of cancer. Non-smokers can be affected by breathing the toxic products that tobacco smoke adds to the air. The use of snuff and chewing tobacco can cause gum disease and oral cancer.

Thousands of Oklahoma adolescents begin smoking each year. The majority go on to become regular, adult smokers.

Purpose

The board is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive environment for staff, students, and citizens. The board believes that education has a central role in establishing patterns of behavior related to good health and that measures are necessary to help its students to resist tobacco use. The board is concerned about the health of its employees and also recognizes the importance of adult role-modeling for students during formative years. Therefore, the board shall discourage the use of tobacco products by its staff and students.

Policy

It is the intent of this policy to prohibit tobacco use of any kind by anyone on school property 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. This prohibition includes school buildings, grounds, and school-owned vehicles as well as all personal vehicles while on school property. Possession of tobacco products by students on school property is prohibited. This tobacco-free policy applies to all off-campus school sponsored or school-sanctioned functions. The District will not participate in any type of services, events or programs that are funded by the tobacco industry.

“Tobacco products” includes, but is not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, loose tobacco, rolling papers, chewing tobacco, snuff, matches, lighters, e-cigarettes, digital/personal vaporizers, and electronic nicotine delivery systems and cartridges and products designed for use with electronic nicotine delivery systems, regardless of the nicotine content of the product.

At or near each entrance of every district building the following sign shall be conspicuously posted: Smoking in this building is prohibited. The district prohibits the advertising/marketing of tobacco products (including electronic smoking devices) on school grounds and refuses any tobacco funding (including from electronic smoking device companies).

“Smoking” means the carrying by a person or having access to a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other lighted smoking article. Smoking also includes using products which mimic or simulate smoking behavior, regardless of whether such products actually contain tobacco. This prohibition includes but is not limited to e-cigarettes, digital/personal vaporizers, and electronic nicotine delivery systems.

The District will promote the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline 1 800 Quit-Now to provide tobacco cessation information, resources to employees.

The District will communicate and promote the available tobacco cessation benefits and insurance coverage for employees to all prospective employees, new employees at the time of hire, and all existing employees on an annual basis.

Enforcement

The success of this policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of smokers and non-smokers. All individuals on school premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Any individual who observes a violation on school property may report it in accordance with the procedures listed below.

Students

Any student using, possessing or distributing tobacco products in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures, including out-of-school suspension, pursuant to the board's policies regarding student discipline.

Staff

Any violation of this policy by staff will be referred to the appropriate supervisor. One written warning will be issued to the staff member with a copy placed in his or her district personnel file. Further violations will be considered willful neglect of duty and will be dealt with accordingly based on established policies and procedures for suspension, demotion, dismissal and non-renewal of staff.

Citizens

Citizens who are observed smoking or using tobacco products on district property in violation of this policy will be asked to refrain from smoking on school property. If the individual fails to comply with the request, his or her violation of policy may be referred to the building principal or other district supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program during which the violation occurred. The supervisor shall make a decision on further action which may include a directive to leave school property. Repeated violations may result in a recommendation to the superintendent or board of education to prohibit the individual from entering district property for a specified period of time. If deemed necessary by the school administration or the board of education, local law enforcement officials may be called upon to assist with enforcement of this policy.