

Descriptor Term:
PROHIBITION OF USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Descriptor Code:
5.0260/7.4876

Legal References: Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. 6081-6084; G.S. 14-313; 115C-47(18), -407; Title X of Public Law 103-227

Cross References: 4.3600 Code of Student Conduct

The board of education promotes the health and safety of all students and staff and the cleanliness of all school facilities. The board believes that the use of tobacco products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, in or on any other school property owned, leased or operated by the school board, or at school-related or school-sponsored events or activities or events in which the school system is involved or is participating, is detrimental to the health and safety of students, employees and school visitors. To this end, the board adopts this tobacco-free policy that prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products as set forth herein.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall provide adequate notice of this policy to students, parents, employees and the public.

All employees are required to adhere to and enforce this policy and other policies, rules or regulations addressing the use of tobacco products.

A. TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED

All employees and other persons performing services or activities on behalf of the school system, including volunteers and contractors, as well as students and visitors, are prohibited from using any tobacco product at any time in any school building, in any school facility, on any school campus, in or on any other school property owned, leased or operated by the school board and at any school-sponsored or school related events on school grounds or off of school grounds.

In addition, students are prohibited from possessing a tobacco product.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of tobacco products for an instructional or research activity conducted in a school building, provided that such activity is conducted or supervised by a faculty member and that the activity does not include smoking, chewing or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

B. DEFINITION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND TOBACCO USE

For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco product" is defined as any product that contains tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, all lighted and smokeless tobacco products and any other item reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. "Tobacco use" includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.

C. SIGNAGE

The principal of each school and other school personnel responsible for school facilities shall post signs in school facilities and on school grounds in a manner and location that

adequately notify staff, students and visitors that the use of tobacco products by any person is prohibited at all times in or on school property.

D. ENFORCEMENT FOR STUDENTS

Consequences for students engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with the system's policy 4.3600 Code of Student Conduct.

E. ENFORCEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS

Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies and may include, but are not limited to, verbal warning or written reprimand.

Any person using tobacco products in violation of this policy may be asked by any employee witnessing their use to refrain from such use or to leave the premises or activity. If such person refuses, law enforcement may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or charge the person with trespassing in the event the person refuses to leave the school property or activity.

F. OPPORTUNITIES FOR CESSATION

The administration shall consult with the county health department and other appropriate organizations to provide students and employees with information about support systems and programs to encourage students and employees to abstain from the use of tobacco products. The school system may provide free non-smoking programs and services to employees of the school system after the regular school day.

The administration shall continue to identify programs or opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco use as it relates to providing a safe, orderly, clean and inviting school environment.