

SECTION 3: COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO-FREE POLICY

MODEL TOBACCO-FREE POLICY FOR VIRGINIA SCHOOL DIVISIONS

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL CAMPUSES

The _____ City/County School Board recognizes the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, employees, visitors, and school facilities. The Board believes that the use of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, on school property or at school-related or at school related or school-sponsored events, including off-site events, is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff and visitors.

The Board acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students. The Board recognizes it has an obligation to promote positive role models in schools and to promote a healthy learning and working environment, free from unwanted smoke, tobacco and electronic cigarette use, for students, employees, and visitors on the school campus and off-site school-sponsored events.

Tobacco Use Prohibited

No student, staff member or school visitor is permitted to use any tobacco product or electronic cigarette at any time, including non-school hours (24/7):

- in any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the _____ City/County Public Schools;
- on any school grounds and property – including athletic fields and parking lots – owned leased, rented or chartered by _____ City/County Public Schools; or
- at any school-sponsored or school-related event on-campus or off-campus.

In addition, school division employees, volunteers, contractors or other persons performing services on behalf of _____ City/County Public Schools are prohibited from using tobacco products and electronic cigarettes at any time while on duty and in the presence of students, either on or off school grounds.

Further, no student shall be permitted to possess a tobacco product or electronic cigarette while in any school building; while on school grounds or property; or at any school-sponsored or school-related event, or at any other time that students are under the authority of school personnel.

Tobacco products may be included in instructional or research activities in public school buildings, if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research project, and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

Definition of Tobacco Products and Tobacco Use

For the purposes of this policy, “tobacco product” is defined to include cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, nicotine vapor products (e.g. electronic cigarettes), alternative nicotine products and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. “Tobacco use” includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.

Signage

Signs will be posted in a manner and location that adequately notify students, staff and visitors about the 100 percent tobacco-free school division policy.



Enforcement for Students

Consequences for students engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Students who violate the school division's tobacco use policy will be referred to the guidance counselor, a school nurse, or other health or counseling services for all offenses for health information, counseling and referral. Parents/guardians will be notified of all violations and actions taken by the school.

Enforcement for Staff and Visitors

Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies and may include verbal warning, written reprimand, or termination. Visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on school property or leave the premises. Law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing, if the person refuses to leave the school property. Forfeiture of any fee charged for admission will be enforced for visitors violating this policy.

Opportunities for Cessation

The administration will consult with the county health department and other appropriate health organizations to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems, programs and services to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

Prevention Education

The administration will consult with appropriate health organizations to identify and provide 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.

Procedures for Implementation

The administration will develop a plan for communicating this policy, which includes information in student and employee handbooks, announcements at school-sponsored or school-related events, and appropriate signage in buildings and around the school campus. An enforcement protocol, which identifies consequences for students, staff and visitors who violate the policy, will be created and communicated to all students, staff, parents, and community members.