

SUBJECT: TOBACCO USE AND POSSESSION - TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS

Date of Original Policy: May 5, 1997, December 4, 1997

Date of Next Review: 2024

Cancels Policy Code: None

Revision Date: June 24, 2013. March 21, 2019

JURISDICTION: RSU 73 Schools**POLICY: TOBACCO USE AND POSSESSION - TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS****Rationale for Preventing**

The RSU 73 Board of Directors believes that the use of tobacco products is injurious to the health of both those who use tobacco and, in the case of smoking, those who must inhale air filled with smoke. Research has shown that students addicted to tobacco products do not learn as well because they are focused on the need for more tobacco versus learning. Tobacco is the number one killer and leading cause of preventable death in Maine. The school district curriculum teaches the health risks associated with the use of tobacco. Because of those beliefs, and to support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students, and because of state and federal laws, the RSU 73 Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, adopts the following tobacco-free policies.

In order to promote the health, welfare and safety of students, staff and visitors and to promote the cleanliness of RSU 73 facilities, the Board prohibits smoking and all other use of tobacco products in school buildings and other school unit facilities, on school buses, and on school grounds at all time by all persons. RSU 73 shall be tobacco-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This includes all days when school is not in session and all functions taking place on school grounds. Smoking and / or the use, sale or distribution of tobacco products by anyone is prohibited at all times on the school campus. This shall include school buildings, the community building, gymnasiums, bus garages, grounds, athletic fields, tennis courts, driveways, roadways, parking lots, and school-owned vehicles. **All individuals on school premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy.**

This policy applies to the smoking or use of all tobacco products, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, spit and smokeless tobacco, chew, snuff, electronic cigarettes, vape products and other electronic nicotine delivery systems.

Prohibition against Tobacco Use - student

In addition, students are further prohibited from processing, using, selling, distributing or dispensing tobacco products in school buildings, facilities and on school grounds and buses during school-sponsored events away from school property and at all other times. Maine law prohibits possession or use of tobacco products by anyone less than 18 years of age.

Employees and all other persons are also strictly prohibited, under law and Board policy, from selling, distributing or in any way dispensing tobacco products to students.

Students are prohibited from wearing clothing or gear that includes tobacco brands, including e-cigarette or electronic nicotine delivery system brands.

Communicating the Policy

This policy will be printed in both the student handbooks and adult education booklets on a yearly basis.

Tobacco-free signs will be posted in highly visible places both inside and outside all school buildings, including the Central Office. Signs will be posted at all entrances of school buildings, school playgrounds, and athletic fields. The maintenance staff will be responsible for maintaining signage.

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Parents and guardians shall be sent notification in writing, and the local media will be asked to communicate this tobacco-free policy community-wide.

An announcement of the tobacco-free school policy will be made at all school events, including but not limited to, athletics and drama.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. "SMOKING" means inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe or joint, or any other lighted or heated tobacco. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device, which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition in this policy.
- B. "TOBACCO" is defined as all tobacco derived or containing products, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, cigarillos, bidis, kreteks; all smokeless and dissolvable tobacco products including but not limited to, dip, spit / spit-less chew, snuff, snus and nasal tobacco, and any product intended to mimic tobacco, containing tobacco flavoring or delivering nicotine, including but not limited to, electronic nicotine delivery systems, e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-hookahs, *vape pen or any other product name or descriptor. Or the use of any other type of tobacco or nicotine product for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of tobacco in this policy.* This does not include products specifically approved by the US Department of Drug Administration (FDA) for the purpose of cessation or nicotine replacement therapy.

Instruction on Avoiding Tobacco

Age-appropriate tobacco prevention education will be incorporated into the RSU 73 Kindergarten - High School comprehensive health education curriculum in alignment with the Maine Learning Results' Health Education Standards and will include awareness of the RSU 73 policy.

Legal Reference: 22 M.R.S.A. §§ 1578(B), 1580 (A)(3)
Me. PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use by Minors)
20 USC 6081-6084 (Pro-Children Act of 1994)

Adopted: January 24, 2013
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