

USE OF TOBACCO OR NICOTINE PROHIBITED BY ADULTS

The New Hanover County Board of Education believes the use of tobacco or nicotine in any form is harmful to one's health and is a potential safety hazard in a public facility. The Board further believes adults working in the school environment should be positive role models for students and must not use tobacco or nicotine. Therefore, the New Hanover County Schools and all related properties are tobacco and nicotine free.

School employees, volunteers and visitors may not at any time use or display tobacco or nicotine-containing products, including but not limited to electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), on school premises or at any school-sponsored events, both indoor and outdoor, and both off and on school system property. The prohibition of the display of tobacco or nicotine products shall not extend to a display that has a legitimate instructional or pedagogical purpose.

Employees, volunteers and visitors may not at anytime display or use any tobacco or nicotine-containing product in school system vehicles.

No employee, volunteer or visitor shall be permitted under any circumstances to use tobacco or nicotine products in any indoor or outdoor facility or vehicle owned by, leased by or contracted for the New Hanover County Schools.

The Board is committed to creating safe, orderly, clean and inviting schools for all students and staff. The Board also supports state laws that prohibit the selling or distribution of tobacco or nicotine-containing products to minors and federal law prohibiting smoking in all school buildings.

For purposes of this Policy, "tobacco product" is defined to include cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco, tobacco products, or any facsimile thereof. "Tobacco use" includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.

This Policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit the lawful possession or use of prescription medicine or the possession or use of over-the-counter products designed and used to stop nicotine addiction.

In compliance with federal laws, New Hanover County Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

LEGAL REF: NCGS §115C-407

CROSS REF: Policy 8430 Use and Possession of Tobacco Or Nicotine By Students

Adopted: 12/02/86

Revised: 10/02/90, 04/06/93, 05/04/93, 11/20/02, 02/03/03, 06/07/11, 04/01/14