

SMOKING AND OTHER TOBACCO USE

The Board of School Trustees for Loogootee Community School Corporation is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive environment for students, staff, and citizens. The Board remains committed to the notion of reducing involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke among students and staff. The Board believes that it is the right of the nonsmoker to breathe clean air. The Board believes that the use of tobacco products in school buildings or school vehicles, on school grounds, or at any school-related activity, denies students, staff and visitors access to clean air, introduces a substantial health hazard to those persons, and interferes with learning and teaching.

For the purpose of this policy, "tobacco use" shall mean smoking, chewing or maintaining tobacco in one's mouth to derive the effects of tobacco. Smoking shall mean the burning of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other matter or substance, which contains tobacco.

It is the intent of the Board to create a "tobacco-free" school environment and therefore establish the following policy and regulations.

I. Implementation

- A. All persons, including students, employees, volunteers, and visitors, shall not be permitted to possess or use tobacco products of any kind or in any form while:
 - 1. inside school corporation-owned buildings.
 - 2. being transported to or from school events in school corporation-owned, contracted, or other authorized vehicles.
 - 3. on school corporation-owned property outside school corporation-owned buildings.
- B. In addition to those stipulations mentioned in Section A, school employees and volunteers shall not be permitted to possess or use tobacco products when supervising or directing student activities or when present at such activities away from school property.
- C. In addition to those stipulations mentioned in Section A, students shall not be permitted to possess or use tobacco products when present at student activities away from school property.
- D. Prohibitions against tobacco use will be posted in prominent places.

Any individual who observes a violation of this policy is encouraged to report it in accordance with the procedures contained in Section II of this policy and regulations.

II. Enforcement

A. Students

Any violation of this policy by students shall be referred to the building principal or assistant principal. Students who violate provisions of this policy shall be subject to the provisions of school board policies and student handbooks regarding student discipline.

B. Visitors

A visitor who is observed using tobacco products inside school corporation-owned building and/or on school corporation-owned property outside school corporation-owned buildings shall be asked to refrain from such use.

If a visitor fails to comply with a request to refrain from using tobacco products, he/she shall be referred to a building principal or other school corporation supervisory staff member who is responsible for the building in which the violation occurred. The principal or 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 to prohibit the violator from entering school corporation property for a specified period of time. If deemed necessary by a school official, an appropriate local law enforcement agency may be contacted to assist with enforcement of this policy.

C. Employees

Any violation of this Policy by an employee will be referred to his/her immediate supervisor.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. 7181 et seq.
IC 16-41-37-1 et seq.