

TOBACCO AND VAPOR-PRODUCING PRODUCTS, POSSESSION and EXPOSURE

Tobacco and Vapor-Producing Products, Possession and Exposure Policy Rationale:

Scarborough Public Schools are dedicated to providing its students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment to learn, work and play. Tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable disease and death in Maine and the United States and vapor-producing tobacco products have also become a major threat to our healthy school environment. To that end, Scarborough Schools has adopted a vapor-producing and tobacco-free campus policy that prohibits the use of all electronic and tobacco products on all school property and at school sponsored events. This policy reflects and emphasizes the hazards of tobacco and vapor use, assures compliance with laws, protects school community members from secondhand smoke, and serves to role model tobacco-free and vapor-free lifestyles.

Policy Statement:

All school buildings and school property shall be free from tobacco and vapor-producing products at all times and during all activities. This includes days when school is not in session, functions that take place on school grounds, and athletic/co-curricular events and other activities, even when they are not associated with, or sponsored by, the school. This policy applies to everyone on school buildings and school property, including students, school staff, parents and visitors. This policy applies to school buses and all vehicles owned or leased by Scarborough Public Schools.

This policy applies to the use, possession, sale, distribution, dispensing, or promotion of all tobacco products, including smokeable or smokeless tobacco, and their paraphernalia. This policy also applies to the use, possession, sale, distribution, dispensing, or promotion of vape products, other electronic delivery systems, and their paraphernalia, including the vaping of any other substance. Advertising of tobacco and vapor-producing products is prohibited in school buildings, on school property and in all school publications.

Policy Communication:

In an effort to educate students, school staff, parents, and visitors this policy will be communicated in a variety of approaches. Tobacco-free and vapor-free signs shall be posted in highly visible areas at facility entrances and throughout the school property, including athletic/co-curricular facilities.

The policy shall be listed on the school website and referenced in employee and student handbooks on an annual basis. Each year, all school staff, parents, and guardians will receive information in writing about the policy.

Policy Enforcement:

Everyone is required to comply with Scarborough Schools' tobacco and vapor-producing policy. Enforcement of this policy will follow the standard safety and wellness procedures for students and staff.

Members of the Public/Visitor Violations:

Members of the public, including parents and guardians, visiting school facilities must comply with any regulations set forth by Scarborough Schools. Persons found to be using or possessing tobacco or vapor-producing products will be asked by the appropriate school official to refrain from continued use or possession on school property and will be informed of the school's tobacco and vapor-producing policy. Persons who do not comply with this request will be subject to lawful removal from the property.

Tobacco and Vapor-Producing Product Treatment Support:

The Principal and/or their designee will provide information regarding tobacco and vaping treatment, to students and staff. This could include resources for counseling and the Maine Tobacco HelpLine (1-800-207-1230).

Legal References: 22 MRSA § 1578(B); 1580(A)(3)

Me. PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use by Minors)

20 USC § 4301 et seq. (Pro-Children's Act of 2001)

Cross References: JIC - System-wide Student Code of Conduct

JICH - Student Drug and Alcohol Use

JKD - Suspension of Students

JKE - Expulsion of Students

Adopted: January 18, 1996

Revised: January 21, 1999

October 3, 2002

August 16, 2012

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