

## GBED TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICY

### 1. Statement of Purpose:

The Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School Committee is committed to providing a tobacco-free environment for the health and well being of the entire school community – students, staff, and visitors to its facilities. Education about the consequences of tobacco use is an integral part of the High School Health Curriculum. The use of tobacco products has a direct link to numerous health problems. Tobacco prevention and education play critical roles in establishing life-long, positive health habits. The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirements of the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Sections 2A and 37H. It is the intention of the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School Committee to prohibit the use or distribution of tobacco products at all times whether or not school is in session within school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses or in other school vehicles, and at all school-sponsored functions in order to improve the health of students, all school personnel and visitors.

### 2. Definitions:

School: The Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School.

School Grounds: Property owned or controlled by the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School, including but not limited to school buildings, structures, open space, sports or recreational facilities whether enclosed or not, vehicles owned or leased for the purpose of transporting students, school driveways, and school parking lots.

School Personnel: A person who performs services for the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School, including but not limited to administrators, teachers, teacher's aides, school counselors, coaches, assistant coaches, school nurses and therapists, cafeteria workers, administrative staff, janitorial staff, volunteers, interns, security guards.

School-sponsored Activity: An activity at least partially funded or controlled by the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School or the parent-teacher organization to which students are invited and which occurs on or off school grounds, such as, but not limited to, graduation, sporting events, work internships, job shadowing, dances, field trips or class picnic, etc.

**ORIGINAL ADOPTION:**

**REVISION:**

**FIRST READING:** 10/21/08; 9/22/09

**SECOND READING:** 11/18/08; 10/20/09

**ADOPTION:** 11/18/08; 11/17/09

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Student: A person enrolled at the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School.

Tobacco Products: Cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, bidis, snuff or tobacco in any of its forms or any product containing tobacco.

Tobacco Paraphernalia: Shall include, but is not limited to products or materials of any kind which are intended or designed for producing, processing or using tobacco products, or paraphernalia

Tobacco Cessation: An intervention program applied to treat tobacco addiction.

Tobacco Use: The inhaling, exhaling or consuming of any lit or unlit tobacco product or carrying of any lit tobacco product; also, the possession by a student on school grounds of a tobacco product.

Visitor: Any person on school grounds who is not a student or staff member. Examples include repair or delivery personnel, security personnel, presenters, consultants, students or staff from other schools, parents, outside facility users, construction workers and contractors.

### **3. Tobacco Product Use Prohibited:**

No student, school personnel or visitor shall use a tobacco product at any time while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity as defined herein.

### **4. Violations:**

The following is the policy to be followed regarding violations of this policy. In appropriate circumstances, additional sanctions or remedies may be used. Nothing contained herein shall operate to limit the authority of any person or the sanctions that may otherwise be imposed by law for violating this policy or the law.

#### Visitors

- Announcers at all events will remind the public that the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School is a tobacco-free environment and that schools are required by law to keep school premises tobacco free. Visitors, who are observed smoking or using tobacco products

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on school property, shall be referred to a school administrator, a site administrator or a police officer.

**5. Severability:**

If any provision of this regulation is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby, but shall continue in full force and effect.

**6. Conflict with Other Policies, Laws or Regulations:**

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, nothing in this policy shall be deemed to amend or repeal applicable fire, health or other laws or regulations so as to permit smoking in areas where it is prohibited by such fire, health or other laws or regulations.

**CROSS REF:** JICG  
KF  
Student Handbook  
Faculty Guide

**LEGAL REF:** M.G.L. 71:2A  
M.G.L. 71:37H

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