

Descriptor Term: TOBACCO POLICY

Descriptor Code: GAKC

Rescinds: GBR/GCR

Board Approved: 6/7/2021

Previously Approved: 6/26/2006

The Board of Trustees prohibits smoking, any use of tobacco products, and vaping by all Gulfport School District personnel while on school property because medical science has proven that any tobacco use is a health hazard.

1. It is the policy of the Gulfport School District to maintain a tobacco-free workplace. As a condition of employment, all employees will be required to certify, in writing, that they will abide by the terms of this policy as set out below. The signed certification will be a part of the employee's permanent personnel file.
2. To assist in becoming a smoke-free individual, Gulfport School District will reimburse the cost (not to exceed \$45.00) to any district personnel for approved smoke-ending programs with proof of participation.
3. The Board of Trustees has the right to revise this policy. Nothing in this policy grants any property to an employee who serves at the will and pleasure of Gulfport School District.
4. Violations of this policy will be handled on an individual basis.

Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act 2000 House Bill 641:

Effective July 1, 2000, no person will use any tobacco product on any school property. Violators will be subject to a warning the first conviction, \$75 for a second conviction, and a fine not to exceed \$150 will be imposed for subsequent violations.

School property means any public school building or bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field or other property owned, used, or operated by a local school board, school, or directors for administration of any public educational institution or during a school related activity. Sixteenth section land or lieu land without school facilities or school-related activities is exempt from this Act.

Anyone convicted under this Act will be recorded as being fined for a civil violation and not for a criminal violation.