

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) promotes the health and safety of all students and staff and the cleanliness of all school facilities. The board believes that the use of tobacco products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board, or at school-related or school-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff and school visitors. To this end, and to comply with state and federal law, the board adopts this tobacco-free policy that prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products as follows. For the purposes of this policy, the term “tobacco product” means any product that contains tobacco and is intended for human consumption. The term “tobacco product” also includes alternative nicotine products (noncombustible products that contain nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, but do not contain tobacco and are intended for human consumption whether chewed, absorbed, dissolved, ingested, or by other means), consumable products (nicotine liquid solutions or other materials containing nicotine that is depleted as a vapor product is used), vapor products (noncombustible products that employ a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit regardless of shape or size and that can be used to heat consumable products) including electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic cigarillos, and electronic pipes, and components of vapor products.

1. All employees and other persons performing services or activities on behalf of the school system, including volunteers and contractors, as well as students and visitors, are prohibited from using any tobacco products at any time in any school building, in any school facility, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board.
2. In addition, persons attending a school-sponsored event at a location not specified in subsection 1 above are prohibited from using tobacco products when (a) in the presence of students or school personnel, or (b) in an area where use of tobacco products is otherwise prohibited by law.
3. Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of tobacco products for an instructional or research activity conducted in a school building, provided that such activity is conducted or supervised by a faculty member and that the activity does not include smoking, chewing or otherwise ingesting tobacco.
4. The administration will consult with the county health department and other appropriate organizations to provide employees with information about support systems and programs to encourage employees to abstain from the use of tobacco products. The school system may, from time to time, provide free non-smoking programs and services to employees of the school system after the regular school day.
5. The principal of each school and other school personnel responsible for school facilities shall post signs in system facilities in a manner and location that adequately notify staff, students and visitors that the use of tobacco products by any person is prohibited at all times in or on school property.

6. The superintendent and designees shall ensure that adequate notice of this policy is provided to students, parents, school personnel and the public.
7. All school personnel are required to adhere to and enforce this policy and other policies, rules or regulations addressing the use of tobacco products.

Legal References: Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. 6081 *et seq.*; 21 U.S.C. 321(rr); 21 C.F.R. 1100 *et seq.*; G.S. 14-313; 115C-47(18), -407

Cross References: Tobacco Products – Students (policy 4320)

Adopted: February 9, 2015

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Replaces: Policy 3.08.70, Tobacco Use and policy 5.07.60, Tobacco Use