AR-5131.62 (a)

TOBACCO

Tobacco-free School Environment

Tobacco: For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include tobacco in any form and/or any nicotine delivering devices, any lighted or unlighted cigarette, smokeless tobacco (dip, chew, etc.), cigars, and electronic nicotine delivery systems, including e-cigarettes, e-liquids, vaping devices, and vaping liquids.

Tobacco Use, Possession and Distribution Prohibited: No student, staff member or school visitor is permitted to smoke, inhale, dip, or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours:

- In any building or facility;
- On school grounds, athletic grounds, or parking lots;
- In any vehicle owned or otherwise used by the school; and
- At any school-sponsored event on or off campus.

No student is permitted to possess or distribute a tobacco product on school grounds. School authorities shall consult with local law enforcement agencies to enforce laws that prohibit the possession or distribution of tobacco by minors within the immediate proximity of school grounds. Tobacco products however may be possessed at school, by school staff or visitors for use as an educational tool in very limited circumstances and at the discretion of a school administrator.

Tobacco Promotion Prohibited: Clothing, bags, hats, and other personal items used by students to display, promote, or advertise tobacco products are prohibited on district grounds, at school-sponsored activities or in district vehicles. Tobacco advertising is prohibited in all school-sponsored publications, in all school buildings, and at all school-sponsored events. District acceptance of gifts or funds, including scholarships, from the tobacco industry is similarly prohibited.

Communicating Policy, Signs and Other Notices: The administration will notify students, families, education personnel and school visitors of part or all of the tobacco-free policy in any of the following: handbooks, newsletters, announcements, programs, on posted notices or signs at building entrances and other prominent locations and by other efficient means. To the extent possible, schools and districts may use local media to publicize the policies and help influence community norms about tobacco use.

AR-5131.62 (b)

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Policy Enforcement: The primary objective of enforcing tobacco-free policy is to reduce tobacco use among students, staff and community members thus reducing the direct negative health effects of tobacco as well as the negative health effects of second-hand smoke and hygiene issues related to tobacco use on students. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary procedures. Students may be referred to therapeutic treatment intended to assist the student in quitting tobacco use but may result in suspension from school. Repeat violation of this policy shall result in progressive disciplinary actions.

Instruction: The district may provide preventative instruction, which helps students avoid the use of tobacco or other drugs and teaches students how to influence their peers to avoid and/or discontinue the use of tobacco. Instruction shall be designed to answer students' questions related to tobacco. The instructional programs will help students obtain and use current and accurate information, develop and maintain a positive self-concept, take positive actions to cope with stress and use appropriate and social and personal skills to resist involvement with tobacco. The curriculum will be evidence-based, K-12, comprehensive and sequential in nature and suited to meet the needs of the students at their respective grade levels. All instruction and related materials shall stress the concept of abstaining from the use of tobacco. The fact that tobacco use by minors is illegal will be addressed and the program will encourage lifelong abstinence from tobacco as a responsibility to self, family and community. The Board encourages staff to display attitudes, which make them positive role models for students with regard to tobacco. Staff should help students see themselves as responsible partners in effort to maintain a safe, constructive school climate.

Cessation Services:
Program Availability: As part of a comprehensive tobacco use prevention program, the school may provide referrals for students, staff and families of students to resources and programs to help overcome nicotine addiction. School counselors or community agencies are encouraged to establish voluntary tobacco-use cessation programs at school. Planning for such services should be based on findings from needs assessment activities and periodically evaluated for effectiveness and participant satisfaction.

Program Attendance: Attendance or completion of a tobacco use cessation program shall not be mandatory for anyone or used as a penalty. Attendance or completion of a tobacco-use cessation program is allowed as a voluntary substitute to suspension for use or possession of tobacco.

Review and Update: This policy may be reviewed on an annual basis by the board, superintendent or tobacco program coordinator. Updates shall be based on input from policy stakeholders including but not limited to parents, students, teachers, administration, staff and community members.

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