Series 4000: District Employment

4200 Employee Conduct and Ethics

4210 Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace; Tobacco Product Restrictions

A. General

Employees serve as role models to students at school and in the community. Employee substance abuse constitutes a threat to the physical and mental well-being of employees and students and significantly impedes job performance and effectiveness.

The District maintains a drug and alcohol free workplace. In addition, to the extent permitted by law, the District strives to maintain a tobacco product free workplace.

This policy does not prohibit the use of nicotine replacement therapies for smoking cessation, such as Food and Drug Administration approved nicotine gum, patches, or lozenges.

B. Definitions

1. "District premises" means District buildings, facilities, or other District property which is owned, leased, or used for a District purpose or District-owned vehicles or vehicles used for a District purpose.

2. "District purpose or function" means a District-sponsored or District-approved activity, event, function or other activity performed by an employee under the District's jurisdiction, which is within the scope of employment, duties, or job description.

3. "Electronic nicotine delivery system" means any product containing or delivering nicotine, a nicotine analog, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption through the inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. "Electronic nicotine delivery system" includes, but is not limited to, devices manufactured, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, e-hookah, vape pens, mods, and tank systems, regardless of any other product name or descriptor that is used. "Electronic nicotine delivery system" includes any component part of a product, whether marketed or sold separately, including but not limited to e-liquids, e-juice, cartridges, and pods.

4. "Illicit substance" means any consumable alcohol; illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as "controlled substances" pursuant to federal or state law; marihuana; anabolic steroids, human growth hormones or other performance-enhancing drugs; and substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance-enhancing (i.e., "look-alike" drugs). This definition also includes any other substance used by an employee as an intoxicant.

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5. “Imitation tobacco product” means any edible non-tobacco product designed to resemble a commercial tobacco product, or any non-edible non-tobacco product designed to resemble a commercial tobacco product and intended to be used by children as a toy. “Imitation tobacco product” includes, but is not limited to, candy or chocolate cigarettes, bubble gum cigars, shredded bubble gum resembling chewing tobacco, pouches containing flavored substances packaged similar to snus, and shredded beef jerky in containers resembling snuff tins.

6. “Reasonable suspicion” means specific, contemporaneous, and articulable observations concerning an employee’s behavior, speech, appearance, or odor that suggests the employee is under the influence of an illicit substance.

7. “Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated product containing, made, or derived from nicotine, tobacco, cannabis, or other plant, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for inhalation. “Smoking” also includes carrying or using an activated electronic nicotine delivery system. “Smoking” does not include the use of traditional or sacred tobacco used by many Native communities for spiritual and medicinal purposes.

8. “Tobacco industry” means manufacturers, distributors, or wholesalers of tobacco products or tobacco-related devices (e.g., Juul, Altria). This includes parent companies and subsidiaries.

9. “Tobacco product or commercial tobacco product” means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or that contains nicotine, whether synthetic or natural, that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including but not limited to: cigarettes; electronic nicotine delivery systems; cigars; little cigars; cheroots; stogies; periques; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine-cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco.

10. “Tobacco-related device” means ashtrays, rolling papers, wraps, or pipes for smoking and any components, parts, or accessories of electronic nicotine delivery systems.

11. “Under the influence” means the use or misuse of an illicit substance or other intoxicant (including over-the-counter and prescription medication) by an employee that in any degree impairs, negatively affects, or tends to deprive that person of any physical or mental capacity normally possessed and required to perform job responsibilities.

12. “Use of tobacco product” means any of the following:

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a. the carrying by a person of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, other lighted smoking device, or electronic nicotine delivery system;

b. the inhaling or chewing of a tobacco product;

c. the placing of a tobacco product within a person's mouth; or

d. the smoking or use of an electronic nicotine delivery system, imitation tobacco product, or other substitute forms of cigarettes, clove cigarettes, or other lighted smoking devices for consuming or inhaling tobacco, nicotine, or any other substance.

C. Standards of Conduct

Employees are prohibited from the following conduct on District premises, at a District function:

1. manufacturing, selling, soliciting, possessing, using (including application, injection, inhalation, or ingestion), dispensing, or distributing any illicit substance;

2. being under the influence as defined in this Policy;

3. misusing over-the-counter and prescription medications;

4. manufacturing, selling, soliciting, dispensing, displaying, promoting, or distributing any tobacco product, tobacco-related device, or imitation tobacco product. This includes products or paraphernalia displaying tobacco industry brand; or

5. using or consuming a tobacco product on District premises or at a District function.

Violating these standards will subject an employee to discipline, including discharge.

It shall be a violation of this Policy for an employee to solicit or accept any contributions, gifts, money, curricula, or materials from the tobacco industry or from any tobacco products shop for use at a District premises or District function. This includes, but is not limited to, donations, money for sponsorship, advertising material, alleged educational materials, promotions, loans, scholarships, or support for equipment, uniforms, sports, or training facilities. It shall also be a violation of this Policy to participate in any type of service funded by the tobacco industry on District premises or at a District function.

If a reasonable suspicion exists that an employee is under the influence, the Superintendent or designee may direct the employee to submit to a drug test or breathalyzer. If the employee refuses, the employee may be subject to discipline, including discharge, based on the District's observations.

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D. It shall not be a violation of this policy:

1. for commercial tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, imitation tobacco products, or lighters to be included in an instructional or work-related activity in the District school buildings if the activity is conducted by a staff member or an approved visitor and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the product;

2. for a person to possess or provide tobacco, tobacco-related devices, imitation tobacco products, or lighters to any other person as part of an indigenous practice used by Native communities for spiritual and medicinal purposes. It shall not be a violation of this policy to use tobacco, tobacco-related devices, initiation tobacco products, or lighters as part of an educational experience related to traditional or sacred tobacco practices that has been approved by administrators;

3. to use or possess a product that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a nicotine dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

4. RESERVED

E. Support

Administrators shall consult with the local public health department or other appropriate health and allied community-based organizations to provide students, staff, and administrators with information and access to support systems, programs, and services to encourage them to abstain from the use of commercial tobacco products. Administrators shall identify and offer evidence-based programs and services for individuals that use commercial tobacco products to support them in complying with this policy.

F. Notice

The District shall provide notice of this policy in staff handbooks, through orientations and employee or staff training, and when offering employment.

G. RESERVED

Legal authority: 20 USC 7101 et seq.; 41 USC 8101 et seq.; 42 USC 12101 et seq.; Schedules I-V of Chapter 13 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC 812; 29 USC 701 et seq.; MCL 37.1211; Schedules 1-5 of the Michigan Uniform Controlled Substances Act, MCL 333.7201 et seq.; MCL 380.11a, 380.601a; MCL 436.1101 et seq.; MCL 750.473.

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