

## CHAPTER 2 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### **RULE 2.55      COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO-FREE POLICY**

**Rational:** The Hardee County School Board recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, employees, parents, visitors, and school facilities. The School Board believes that the use of tobacco products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, on school property, in district-owned vehicles or at school-related or school-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors. Smoking and other tobacco products are detrimental to health and a significant contributor to medical issues and death for both users and non-users. The School Board acknowledges that adult staff and visitors serve as role models for students and therefore seeks to promote a district that is tobacco-free. Thus, the purpose of this policy is to establish a school district-wide tobacco-free environment, provide notification to the public and to school district employees and students, provide education and resources to tobacco users, and to provide an explanation of the disciplinary action that will be taken with those that abuse this policy.

**Application of Policy:** This policy applies to students, employees, volunteers, parents, spectators, and visitors.

**Definitions:** For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. *At any time* is defined as during normal school and non-school hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- B. *Electronic cigarette (e-cigarette)* means any oral device that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine, lobelia, and/or other substance and the use of inhalation of which stimulates smoking. The term shall include any such devices, whether they are manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as e-cigarette, e-cigars, e-pipes, or any other product name or descriptor.
- C. *Tobacco product* is any lighted or unlighted cigarettes, cigars, clove cigarette, blunts, bidis, pipes, hookah, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.
- D. *Off-campus, school-sponsored event* means any event sponsored by the school or school district that is not on school property, including, but not limited to, sporting events, day camps, field trips, seminars, dances or theatrical productions.

**Policy Statement:** No student, employee, volunteer, contractor, or school visitor is permitted to use tobacco products of any kind or e-cigarettes.

- A. In any building, facility, or vehicle that is owned, leased, or rented by the school district.
- B. On any district-owned, leased, rented, or chartered grounds and property

## Chapter 2 – General Administration

including all schools, district offices, athletic fields, practice fields, playgrounds, parking lots, administrative offices, maintenance or transportation areas.

- C. At any off-campus, school-sponsored event.

**Notification of Policy and Implementation:** Appropriate signage will be posted in a manner and location on and surrounding all school district property that adequately notify employees, students, parents, visitors, and the public of this policy. Communication via announcements, memos, presentations, meetings and letters will also be utilized.

**Tobacco Promotion and Sponsorship Prohibited:** Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school grounds, in all school-sponsored publications, and at all school-sponsored events.

**Educational and Cessation Program:** The school district will consult with Student Services, the Hardee County Health Department, the American Lung Association, and other appropriate health organizations to identify and provide programs or opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco use as it relates to providing a safe, orderly, clean and inviting school environment, and to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems, tobacco use cessation programs, and services to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

### Responsibility of School Administrators:

- A. Communicate this policy verbally to students, employees, family members, volunteers, and visitors at school events through signage and school handbooks.
- B. Treat violators who are students or employees with disciplinary actions consistent with school district policies.
- C. Ensure that family members, volunteers, or visitors who violate the policy discontinue using the tobacco product or e-cigarette or leave the premises. Law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing if the person refuses to leave the school property.
- D. The expectation of this prohibition will be enforced in contracts with outside groups who utilize school buildings and other facilities.

### Disciplinary Actions for Student or Employee Violators

- A. *Students:* Consequences for students engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with the school's Code of Student Conduct.
- B. *Employees:* Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with the school district's Standards of Conduct.

## **Chapter 2 – General Administration**

**Effective Date of Policy:** This policy shall take effect in full on January 1, 2014

**Policy Evaluation:** This policy shall be assessed by the school district annually to determine whether policies, policy enforcement, communication, education, staff training, and cessation programs are effective. Policies and programs shall be updated and revised accordingly.

**General Statutory Authority:** 1001.42, 1001.43, F.S.

**Specific Statutory Authority:** 1001.51, 1001.42, 1001.43, F.S.

**History:** 01/09/14