

Tobacco Free School Policy

Rationale

It is the School Board's responsibility to provide a safe and healthy learning environment free from exposure to known carcinogens, and one in which adults are role models for healthy behavior. The Board is acutely aware of the serious health risks associated with the use of tobacco products both to users and non-users, and that most tobacco use begins before the age of eighteen. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in Florida. Comprehensive school policies to prevent tobacco use are an effective strategy to reduce tobacco use in the state. The Board recognizes that District personnel and school visitors also serve as role models to students and, therefore, adopts this Tobacco Free School Policy to endorse a healthy lifestyle and prevent tobacco use and electronic cigarette use.

Definition

For the purpose of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, cigarillo, hookah, and any other smoking product, and any smokeless or spitless tobacco also known as dip, chew, snuff, snus, orbs, and strips, sticks, or electronic cigarette in any form.

This policy includes any school sponsored event. This policy applies to all students, staff, faculty, volunteers, contracted vendors and school visitors.

Tobacco Use Prohibited

All uses of tobacco of any kind (as described above) that may be developed that contains nicotine or tobacco or a combination of the two are prohibited on any property owned, leased, or contracted by the District including, but not limited to: all schools, district offices, practice fields, playgrounds, football fields, baseball fields, softball fields, pool areas, soccer fields, tennis courts and all open areas at any time. All uses of tobacco are also prohibited from District-owned vehicles including, but not limited to: school buses, vans, trucks, station wagons, cars, etc. at any time.

No student is permitted to possess any tobacco product, paper used to roll cigarettes, lighters or other paraphernalia at any time.

Tobacco Promotion Prohibited

Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school grounds, in all school-sponsored and school purchased publications, and at all school-sponsored events. Tobacco promotional items that promote the use of tobacco products, including but not limited to: clothing, bags, lighters and other articles are not permitted on school grounds, in school vehicles or at school sponsored events. Sponsorships, gifts, grants and tobacco prevention materials provided by tobacco companies or their subsidiaries are prohibited.

Notice to Communicate Policy

Appropriate signs will be posted throughout the District at entrances and other appropriate locations on all academic grounds, administrative spaces, and athletic fields indicating that tobacco use is not permitted. Students will be provided notice of this policy through student handbooks. District personnel will be provided notice of this policy through personnel handbooks. District vehicles will display clearly marked “no smoking” insignia. This policy will also be available for review on District websites. Announcements will be made during home athletic events both before the event and at the mid-point or intermission of the event, as well as at school functions where deemed appropriate.

Enforcement

Enforcement of this policy for students is governed by established discipline procedures. Staff and visitors may take advantage of the tobacco cessation program, (resource: www.alectobacco.com). Enforcement efforts will use the opportunity to promote the tobacco cessation program to violators.