

Archived - Smoking In Public Schools - Students

The "[Smoking Restrictions in Schools Act](#)" prohibits tobacco product usage within any school facility. The legislative findings concerning health hazards associated with smoking and tobacco usage are quite clear.

In support of the above law and in an effort to create a tobacco-free school environment, the School Committee has adopted strict guidelines and consequences for tobacco usage. Tobacco product use is prohibited inside any part of school buildings, on school busses or any other vehicle transporting students, in parking lots, on athletic playing fields, or any other areas designated as school property (owned, rented or leased). This policy includes school events held on and off school property and non-school events held on school property, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and pertains to all students and visitors, including contractors and business invitees. Tobacco product use shall mean the smoking or use of any substance or item which contains tobacco, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, or other smoking tobacco, or the use of snuff or smokeless tobacco, or having in one's possession a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other substance or item containing tobacco.

It shall not be a violation of this policy to use tobacco products in accordance with express instructions of a teacher in the course of a legitimate classroom demonstration to show the health hazards of tobacco use.

Student Compliance for Possession of Tobacco Products

Students who possess tobacco products shall have them confiscated, receive a verbal warning, and have their parents notified on the first offense. On the second and subsequent offenses, students shall be subject to the disciplinary action sequence established for use of tobacco products.

Student Compliance for Use of Tobacco Products

First Offense: Suspension from school for one full school day; referral to the Student Assistance Counselor; and parent notification.

Second Offense: Suspension from school for two full days; referral to the Student Assistance Counselor and recommendation for participation in a smoking cessation program; and parent notification.

Third Offense: Suspension from school for five full school days; referral to the Student Assistance Counselor and recommendation for participation in a smoking cessation program; and parent notification.

Subsequent

Offenses: Suspension from school for ten full school days; referral to the Superintendent for possible further disciplinary action; referral to the Student Assistance Counselor and recommendation for participation in a smoking cessation program; and parent notification.

Note: Students participating in extracurricular activities and/or holding leadership positions are also subject to the provisions outlined in the Student Athletic Handbook and the Student Activities Handbook.

Legal References:

[RI General Laws 23-20.9](#)

Approved 06/16/94

Amended 08/28/97

Amended 03/06/08