

5640 - Tobacco-Free School Environment

2016 5640

Non-Instructional/Business Operations

SUBJECT: TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Rationale

The Wayland-Cohocton School District recognizes its responsibility to promote the health, welfare and safety of students, staff and others on school property and at school-sponsored activities. Research conclusively proves that:

- a) Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States;
- b) Regular use of tobacco is ultimately harmful to every user's health, directly causing cancer, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse pregnancy outcome, and premature death;
- c) Second-hand smoke is a threat to the personal health of everyone, especially persons with asthma and other respiratory problems;
- d) Nicotine is a powerfully addictive substance;
- e) Tobacco use most often begins during childhood or adolescence;
- f) The younger a person starts using tobacco, the more likely he or she will be a heavy user as an adult;
- g) Many young tobacco users will die an early, preventable death because of their decision to use tobacco;
- h) Use of tobacco interferes with students' attendance and learning;
- i) Smoking is a fire safety issue for schools.

Prevention programs in schools are most effective when supplemented by strong tobacco-free policies and when they are a part of broader school, community, and state efforts to reduce youth smoking. In light of this information, and to be consistent with school curriculum and federal and state law, it is the intent of the Wayland-Cohocton School District to establish a tobacco-free environment.

Definitions

Tobacco:

Means any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product; as well as spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, snus, and/or snuff, and any other spit tobacco product in any form.

School Property:

Means any building, structure or vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the Wayland-Cohocton School District.

School Grounds:

Means property surrounding buildings and structures, athletic grounds, parking lots, or any other outdoor property owned, leased, or contracted by the Wayland-Cohocton School District.

Tobacco use shall not be permitted and no person shall use tobacco on school grounds or within 100 feet of the entrances, exits, or outdoor areas of any public or private elementary or secondary schools. However, this shall not apply to smoking in a residence, or within the real property boundary lines of such residential real property. For purposes of this policy, "school grounds" means any building, structure, and surrounding outdoor grounds, including entrances or exits, contained within the District's preschool, nursery school, elementary or secondary school's legally defined property boundaries as registered in the County Clerk's Office; as well as all District vehicles, including vehicles used to transport children or school personnel.

It is the policy of the School District that the use of electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, and any refill, cartridges and any other component of an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette on school grounds or in District vehicles is prohibited. The use of vaporizers or any other products containing nicotine, except for current FDA-approved smoking cessation products, is also prohibited.

Tobacco Use Prohibited

No person is permitted to use tobacco in any way at any time, including non-school hours, on school property, grounds or at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus.

Tobacco Education

Instruction to discourage the misuse of tobacco shall be included in the health education provided for all elementary school pupils taught by the classroom teacher or by teachers certified to teach health education.

Instruction shall also be an integral part of a required health education at the junior and senior high levels and taught by teachers certified to teach health education. Related courses in secondary school curriculum shall be taught in a manner supportive of health education regarding tobacco. Staff responsible for teaching tobacco-use prevention shall have adequate training and participate in ongoing professional development activities to effectively deliver the education program as planned.

Tobacco Possession

No student is permitted to possess tobacco on school property, grounds, or at school-sponsored event or activity off campus.

Distribution

Distribution or sale of tobacco, including any smoking device is prohibited on school property, grounds, and at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus.

Tobacco Promotion

Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school property, grounds, at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus, and in all school-sponsored publications. The school will request tobacco-free editions of all publications in school libraries. Students are prohibited from wearing or having in their possession tobacco promotional items, including clothing, bags, lighters, and other personal articles on school property, grounds, or at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus. School acceptance of gifts, funding, or parent/classroom educational materials from the tobacco industry is prohibited.

Tobacco Cessation

Referrals and access to community resources and programs to help students and staff overcome tobacco addiction shall be provided to staff and students. School counselors, health services, or community agencies are encouraged to establish voluntary tobacco-use cessation programs at school.

Posting/Notification of Policy

In compliance with the New York State Clean Indoor Air Act, the District will prominently post its Smoking/Tobacco Use policy and signs prohibiting all forms of tobacco products in District buildings and other appropriate locations; and will supply a copy upon request to any current or prospective employee. The District will also designate a school official to tell individuals who smoke in a non-smoking area that they are in violation of the New York State Public Health Law, Education Law, the federal Pro-Children Act of 1994 and District policy.

The District shall also ensure that this policy is communicated to staff, students, parents/guardians, volunteers, and visitors as deemed appropriate in order to orient all persons to the District's "No Smoking" Policy and environment.

Enforcement

Enforcement of the Tobacco Free policy will be handled through the normal disciplinary channels that are specific to each building. These procedures are addressed in each individual school's discipline policy.

Student violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school. Student participation in a tobacco cessation program and/or tobacco education class may be allowed as an alternative to discipline. Parents will be notified of violations including their child and subsequent action taken by the school.

Employee violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action in accordance with personnel policies and may include verbal warning and/or written reprimand.

Violations by others will result in appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the Superintendent or Board.

Administrative Rules

The Superintendent will develop administrative regulations as necessary to implement this policy, including provisions for notification of the school's policy; disciplinary consequences; and procedures for filing and handling complaints about violations of the school's policy.

The Superintendent shall ensure that the school's tobacco-use prevention program, policies, curricula, training and cessation programs are evaluated at regular intervals. The input of students, staff, parents and others from the community will be encouraged.

This policy shall be in force at all times.

20 USC §§ 6081-6084, 7971-7974
Education Law § 409
Public Health Law §§ 1399-n, 1399-o, 1399-p and 1399-aa
8 NYCRR §§ 155.5, 156.3

NOTE: Refer also to Policies

- #3280 -- Use of School Facilities, Materials and Equipment
- #3410 -- Code of Conduct on School Property.
- #7320 -- Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, and Other Substances (Students).
- #8211 -- Prevention Instruction
District Code of Conduct on School Property

Adopted: 4/11/11
Revised: 11/14/16; 12/17/18