

# **Tobacco Free Campus Policy**

## **of the \_\_\_\_\_ School Corporation**

### **1. PURPOSE AND GOALS**

INTENT. All students shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to avoid all tobacco use, and school leaders shall actively discourage all use of tobacco products by students, staff, and school visitors. To achieve these ends, district/school leaders shall prepare, adopt, and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent tobacco use that includes:

- establishment and strict enforcement of completely tobacco-free school environments at all times;
- prohibition of tobacco advertising;
- appropriate counseling services and/or referrals for students and staff to help them overcome tobacco addiction;
- cooperation with community-wide efforts to prevent tobacco use; and
- strategies to involve family members in program development and implementation.

RATIONALE. Tobacco use is considered the chief preventable cause of premature disease and death in the United States. Schools have a responsibility to help prevent tobacco use for the sake of students' and staff members' health and the well-being of their families. Research conclusively proves that:

- regular use of tobacco is ultimately harmful to every user's health, directly causing cancer, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse pregnancy outcomes, and premature death;
- second-hand smoke is a threat to the personal health of everyone, especially persons with asthma and other respiratory problems;
- nicotine is a powerfully addictive substance;
- tobacco use most often begins during childhood or adolescence;
- the younger a person starts using tobacco, the more likely he or she will be a heavy user as an adult; and
- many young tobacco users will die an early, preventable death because of their decision to use tobacco.

Additional reasons why schools need to strongly discourage tobacco use are that:

- In Indiana, the purchase and possession of tobacco products is illegal for persons under age 18;
- use of tobacco interferes with students' attendance and learning;
- smoking is a fire safety issue for schools;
- use of any tobacco products pose health issues and could lead to addiction; and
- use of spit tobacco is a potential sanitation issue.

DEFINITION. For the purposes of this policy "tobacco" is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product; spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, and snuff, in any form; and all electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) such as e-cigarettes and vape and hookah pens.

## 2. TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENTS

TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED. No student, staff member, or school visitor is permitted to smoke, vape, inhale, dip, or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours:

- in any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the district/school;
- on school grounds, athletic grounds, or parking lots; or
- at any school-sponsored event off campus.

In addition, "pass-outs" for adults during extra-curricular events are hereby eliminated as they only tend to encourage tobacco use on campus.

Further, no student is permitted to possess a tobacco product. The provisions of existing policies that address the use and possession of drugs shall apply to all tobacco products.

TOBACCO PROMOTION. Tobacco promotional items, including clothing, bags, lighters, and other personal articles, are not permitted on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school-sponsored events. Tobacco advertising is prohibited in all school-sponsored publications and at all school-sponsored events.

CLOSED CAMPUS. No student may leave the school campus during breaks in the school day to use a tobacco product. School authorities shall consult with local law enforcement agencies to enforce laws that prohibit the possession of tobacco by minors within the immediate proximity of school grounds.

NOTICE. The superintendent/principal/other shall notify students, families, education

personnel, and school visitors of the tobacco-free policy in handbooks and newsletters, on posted notices or signs at every school entrance and other appropriate locations, and by other efficient means. To the extent possible, schools and districts will make use of local media to publicize the policies and help influence community norms about tobacco use.

**ENFORCEMENT.** It is the responsibility of all students, employees, and visitors to enforce this policy through verbal admonition. Any tobacco product found in the possession of a minor student shall be confiscated by staff and discarded.

*Research shows penalties like expulsion and suspension result in negative educational and life outcomes. Suspension, expulsion, and other punitive penalties should be used as a last resort. Sample language for [alternative penalties](#) can be found below.*

Any student in violation of this policy may be subject to the following measures:

1. The first violation will result in confiscation of tobacco products notification of parents and/or guardians, and at least one of the following:
  - a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with designated staff (such as a guidance counselor, school nurse, counseling service, or resource officer) to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy.
  - b. Student participation in a tobacco education program, such as CATCH My Breath
  - c. Offering student information about available cessation programs and resources
2. The second violation shall result in confiscation of tobacco products, notification of parents and/or guardians, and offering the student information about available cessation programs, as well as at least one of the following:
  - a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with designated staff with parents and/or guardians to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy
  - b. Student participation in a tobacco education program
3. The third and any subsequent violation shall result in confiscation of tobacco products, notification of parents and/or guardians, offering student information about available cessation programs, and student participation in a tobacco education program as well as at least one of the following:
  - a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with designated staff and parents and/or guardians to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy.

- b. Educational community service hours. This alternative can include activities related to the tobacco violation, such as cleaning up school grounds of litter or providing tobacco education to younger students.

### **3. ASSISTANCE TO OVERCOME TOBACCO ADDICTION**

PROGRAM AVAILABILITY. The school health program shall include referrals to community resources and programs to help students and staff overcome tobacco addiction.

More information and resources about quitting tobacco:

**Quitting resources for youth and adults:**

[www.QuitNowIndiana.com](http://www.QuitNowIndiana.com)

[www.truthinitiative.org/research-resources/quitting-smoking-vaping/quitting-e-cigarettes](http://www.truthinitiative.org/research-resources/quitting-smoking-vaping/quitting-e-cigarettes)

**CATCH My Breath e-cigarette prevention program:** [www.catchinfo.org/cvshealth](http://www.catchinfo.org/cvshealth)

**ASPIRE education program on the health risks of tobacco use and nicotine addiction:** <https://www.mdanderson.org/about-md-anderson/community-services/aspire.html>

**E-cigarette resources for schools and parents:** <https://www.in.gov/isdh/tpc/2340.htm>

*Adopted and approved by the Board of the \_\_\_\_\_ School Corporation this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20XX. This policy is effective upon adoption.*