

SAMPLE TOBACCO POLICY

USE AND POSSESSION OF TOBACCO WITHIN THE XYZ SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in Washington State. The Board recognizes that schools cannot achieve their primary mission of education if students and staff are not healthy and fit physically, mentally, and socially.

This policy is established to protect students, staff, and community patrons from exposure to the addictive substance of nicotine and secondhand smoke.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, *tobacco products* are defined to include: any lit or unlit cigarette, cigar, pipe, blunt, bidi, clove cigarette; spit tobacco (also known as smokeless tobacco, dip, chew, and snuff); and any other tobacco-related products or paraphernalia, including cigarette lighters.

For the purpose of this policy, *school district property* is defined as buildings, grounds, vehicles (including busses), facilities, and any other structures or items which are owned or leased by XYZ School District.

Use of Tobacco

Students are prohibited to unlawfully possess, distribute, purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco products (RCW 70-155-080).

Students who are not using tobacco products but are in the known presence of students who are using tobacco products in violation of this policy, shall also be deemed in violation.

The use of any tobacco products shall be prohibited by anyone at anytime on school district property, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

This shall apply to all school-sponsored activities on and off campus, both during and outside of school hours, and shall also apply to non-school-sponsored activities that are held on school district property.

This policy is inclusive of all district buildings, grounds, facilities, district vehicles on or off campus, and privately-owned vehicles on school property. (WAC 72-140-080, 148-120-100, WAC 72-140-080).

Role Modeling of Healthy Behaviors

This policy affirms that employees and officers of the school district have a responsibility to be role models, and all members of the community have an obligation as role models, to refrain from tobacco use on school property and at district-sponsored events at all times.

The use of tobacco products off campus is prohibited in areas adjacent or near school district property, within the line of sight of students and others on campus.

Notification of Tobacco Policies

Notices advising students, district employees and community patrons of this policy shall be posted in appropriate locations in all district buildings and at other district facilities as determined by the superintendent.

Signs shall be posted at main entrances to school and district buildings, and posted at playgrounds and athletic fields. Notification or announcements shall be provided for school-sponsored events on and off campus.

Notification shall be included in the employee and student handbooks.

Tobacco Advertising and Sponsorship

Pro-Tobacco advertising, slogans, and messages are prohibited in school and district buildings, on school grounds, at district-sponsored events on and off campus, in district vehicles, in school publications, and on clothing, gear, accessories, and other paraphernalia.

School programs and school staff are prohibited from knowingly accepting any support, funding, or resources (such as curriculum, posters, other classroom materials, etc.) from tobacco industry sources.

Enforcement of Tobacco Policies

Employees, students, and visitors are subject to discipline for violations of this policy. School district employees are responsible for the enforcement of the policy in a consistent and equitable manner, according to district procedures.

Prevention Education

Tobacco prevention education will be incorporated into the district's preK-12 comprehensive health curriculum so that students and families will be aware of the health and social consequences of use/non-use of tobacco products. Teachers and other staff whose instructional assignments include tobacco use and prevention education will receive training in this subject matter, in order that students be afforded the most effective delivery of the district's classroom-based tobacco prevention education.

Intervention Services

The superintendent is directed to develop and implement procedures to assess the scope of the problem of the use of addictive substances including tobacco products and products containing nicotine, and to reduce and/or eliminate the problems associated with the use of tobacco products containing nicotine (language adapted from Substance abuse policy and RCW 28a.170.075).

The district will provide referral information to parents, families, and students regarding school and community resources for tobacco intervention and cessation.

Legal References: RCW 28A.210.310 Prohibition on use of tobacco products on school
Property
 RCW 70.155.080 Purchasing, obtaining or possessing tobacco by
Minors — Civil infraction

Additional References Suggested by the Dept. of Health:

Board Policy 3241 Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishments

Board Policy 5280 Termination of Employment

RCW 28A.170.075 Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention

WAC 72-140-080 Prohibited conduct at school facilities

WAC 148-120-100 Conduct violations

20 U.S.C. 3171 et seq. Drug-free Schools and Community Act