

RSU #23 TOBACCO FREE SCHOOL POLICY**I. RATIONALE FOR REGULATION OF POSSESSION & USE**

The School Board of RSU 23 recognizes its responsibility to promote the health, welfare and safety of students, staff, and others on district property and at school-sponsored activities. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in Maine. In order to promote the health and safety of all students, employees, and the general public, and to role model a non-tobacco use environment, the following tobacco policy has been established.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, “tobacco” is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, smokeless tobacco product such as snus or e-cigarettes, and any other tobacco product.

III. TOBACCO USE & POSSESSION

The school grounds will be tobacco free 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Student possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco, including any smoking device on district premises, at school-sponsored activities on or off district premises, in district-owned, rented or leased vehicles, or otherwise while the student is under the jurisdiction of RSU 23, is prohibited.

Tobacco prevention education will be incorporated into the district’s pre-K-12 comprehensive health curriculum as part of the Maine Learning Results.

Tobacco use or distribution by staff, faculty, visitors, chaperones, volunteers, and the parents or guardians of students on district property, at district sponsored events, in district owned, rented or leased vehicles or otherwise while on duty on or off district premises is prohibited. Staff and/or all others authorized to use private vehicles to transport district students to school-sponsored activities are prohibited from using tobacco in those vehicles while students are under their care.

IV. TOBACCO ADVERTISING

Clothing, bags, hats, notebooks and other personal items used by staff and students to display, promote, or advertise tobacco products are prohibited on district grounds and at school-sponsored activities. Tobacco advertising is prohibited in all school-sponsored publications in all school buildings and at all school-sponsored events. District acceptance of gifts or funds from the tobacco industry is similarly prohibited.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This tobacco policy will be included as part of the student and of the employee handbooks. Parents/guardians/caregivers of students will be made aware/reminded of the policy through either assembly announcements, a letter sent, or articles in school newsletters. Signs indicating tobacco-free areas will be posted at all school property entrances, parking lots, and athletic fields. This policy will be reviewed & updated for relevancy and accuracy by the school board annually.

VI. REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT OF POLICY

Students: In recognition of the value of effective tobacco intervention, the district will prioritize the promotion of cessation resources and other supportive alternatives to discipline.

1. First Offense: – will result in any or all of the following:
 - a. Confiscate material
 - b. Notify parent/guardian, hold conference with administrator
 - c. Refer to police
 - d. Refer the student for assessment to the substance abuse counselor or tobacco intervention person

2. Second Offense:
 - a. Confiscate material
 - b. Notify parent/guardian, hold conference with administrator
 - c. Refer to police
 - d. Refer the student for assessment to the substance abuse counselor or tobacco prevention person
 - e. Up to three days of in-school or out-of-school suspension

3. Third and Subsequent Offenses:
 - a. Confiscate material
 - b. Notify parent/guardian, hold conference with administrator
 - c. Refer to police
 - d. Refer the student to the substance abuse counselor or tobacco intervention person

- e. Up to ten days of in-school or out-of-school suspension

Visitors: Anyone found smoking or using tobacco products on school property or at a school function will be made aware of the school's tobacco policy and asked to refrain from tobacco use while on school property or at a school sponsored event. If they do not comply, they will be asked to leave. If they refuse to leave, the police will be called and a charge of trespassing may be levied.

Faculty/Staff: Employees of RSU23 found acting in violation of the tobacco policy shall be subjected to the following procedures regarding enforcement:

1st Offense:

- A. Written warning by the appropriate administrator and place in personnel file.
- B. Referral to a tobacco treatment program.
- C. Possible leave without pay or dismissal.

2nd Offense:

- A. A formal reprimand by the appropriate administrator.
- B. A copy of reprimand letter will be placed in the personnel file.
- C. Referral to a tobacco treatment program
- D. Meeting with the School Board and possible leave without pay or dismissal.

The Partnership For A Tobacco-Free Maine (PTM) recommends The Maine Tobacco Helpline at 1-800-207-1230 for free cessation resources and support for teenagers and adults looking to quit tobacco use. Contact PTM for free Tobacco-Free Area signage or for resources at www.tobaccofreemaine.org.

Legal references:

22 MRSA section 1578(B)(4)
20 USC section 6081 Pro-children Act of 1994-Goals 2000
ME PL470 (An act to reduce Tobacco Use by Minors).

Adopted: 06/10/2015