

## **Policy Code: 4320 Tobacco Products**

The board is committed to creating safe, orderly, clean and inviting schools for all students and staff. The board firmly believes that prevention of tobacco use is its primary aim and mandates instruction of effective tobacco prevention and intervention curricula at elementary, middle and high school as part of a coordinated school health program. The board also supports state laws that prohibit the selling or distribution of tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, to minors and federal law prohibiting smoking in all school buildings. Last, the board encourages students to engage in health-promoting behaviors that reinforce academic and personal success. The use of tobacco products is harmful and increases the risk of debilitating disease and loss of productivity.

### **Prohibited Behavior**

In support of the board's commitments and state and federal law, students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product (1) in any school building, school vehicle or on the school grounds at any time; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including school trips.

### **Consequences**

In providing consequences for violation of this policy, school officials are encouraged to identify programs or opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards for the tobacco user and the impact of tobacco use on efforts to provide a safe, orderly, clean and inviting school environment. The board supports educational programs as alternatives to suspension for offenders of the district tobacco policy.

For all offenses of the district tobacco policy, including use or possession of tobacco products on school campus, school administrators will be required to:

1. Inform parent/guardian of violation and action to be taken by the school
2. Refer the student to the school Student Assistance Program (SAP) school contact
3. The SAP school contact will notify the Orange County Health Department Youth Tobacco project manager.

In addition the school will take the following actions:

#### **1. First Offense:**

3 days in-school suspension (ISS)

#### **OR**

- i. 1 day ISS
- ii. participation in 4 session Alternative to Suspension (ATS) program
- iii. student and parent/guardian conference with SAP school contact (student will remain in ISS until parent participates in conference, for a maximum of 2 additional days.

**2. Second Offense:**

- i. 2 days ISS
- ii. 1:1 educational sessions to encourage tobacco cessation (e.g. NOT, a 10-session tobacco cessation program)
- iii. Student and parent/guardian conference with SAP school contact

**OR**

- i. 4 days ISS
- ii. Student and parent/guardian conference with SAP school contact

**3. Third Offense:**

- i. 2 days Out-of-school suspension (OSS)
- ii. Reentry conference with administrator

Middle school offenses will accumulate over all three years; high school offenses will likewise accumulate over four years. Offenses will be erased during the transition from middle to high school, allowing the student to begin high school with a clean slate.

Consequences for engaging in tobacco use and possession are consistent with the school's student behavior management plan (see policy 4302, School Plan for Management of Student Behavior).

Legal References: 20 U.S.C.A. § 6083; G.S. 14-313; 115C-47, -288, -307, -391

Cross References: School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302)