

TOBACCO – FREE SCHOOLS POLICY

PHILOSOPHY: The Board believes that all students, employees, parents, and visitors have the right to be in a school environment that promotes, enhances, strives to become, and maintains a drug free School District. Because of the high degree of evidence available, the Board views smoking and other uses of tobacco and tobacco products as being detrimental to health and a significant contributor to lung, heart, mouth, and other associated diseases. The Board also considers the area of personal health as being a primary objective of education. It is also the belief of the Board that School District employees will, by example, demonstrate to the students they serve their concerns of the dangers inherent in the use of these products.

Therefore in accordance with Administrative Code of Alabama 290-3-1.02-.01, Regulations Governing Public Schools, para. 2, which states, “Adopt a uniform policy prohibiting the use of tobacco products on school property and prescribing specific penalties for violating this policy,” the Board adopts this Tobacco-Free Schools Policy effective immediately.

GENERAL TOBACCO POLICY STATEMENT: All persons are prohibited from using tobacco products of any kind on all school properties at any time and at any school sponsored event.

School properties include but not limited to public school, vocational, maintenance, and athletic buildings, campus grounds, parking lots, athletic stadiums and fields, in school owned or leased buses, vans and other vehicles.

This policy applies to everyone; students, employees, volunteers, parents, spectators, and visitors.

This policy is in effect 24 hours a day and at school sponsored events, on and off school property including students and employees traveling to and from school sponsored events in school owned or leased buses, vans, and other vehicles.

In addition to tobacco use, students are prohibited from the possession of tobacco products and wearing tobacco advertising, logos, etc. on school campus or at school sponsored events.

School principals and other work site supervisors as may be designated are directed to post tobacco free signs at the entrance of all school buildings and on the grounds of school property designating the school property as a tobacco free campus.

Announcements are encouraged to be made at school sponsored or other community events held on the school campus to remind and educate the general public of the tobacco free schools policy.

ENFORCEMENT: Any student or employee violating this policy will be disciplined in accordance with the intent of this policy statement and any other applicable student or employee handbook or district policy. Refer to the student or employee handbook or related policies for disciplinary actions, offenses and occurrences.

In addition, Alabama Act 97-423 Youth Access to Tobacco Products states “Any tobacco or tobacco product found in the possession of a minor is contraband and subject to seizure by law enforcement. Any minor violating Section 28-11-13 shall be issued a citation similar to a uniform nontraffic citation and shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50) for each violation.”

Any member of the general public violating this policy will be asked to cease and desist or be subjected to removal from school property by the appropriate local authorities for trespassing.