

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS/SMOKING

BP 3513.3(a)

OPTION 1: Tobacco-Free Schools

Note: The federal No Child Left Behind Act prohibits smoking in district facilities. The following language extends this to prohibit tobacco use in school buildings, on school grounds and parking areas, at school events and in vehicles used for transporting students. The ability of the Board to adopt this following policy may be restricted by collective bargaining agreements.
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The Board recognizes its responsibility to promote the health, welfare and safety of students, staff and others on district property and at school-sponsored activities. Ample research has demonstrated the health hazards associated with the use of tobacco products, including smoking and the breathing of second-hand smoke. As role models, district employees should demonstrate conduct that is consistent with school programs to discourage students from using tobacco products.

In accordance with law and to promote the health and safety of all students and staff, it is the intent of the Board to establish a tobacco-free environment. Consequently, it is a violation for students, staff, visitors, contractors and all others to use, distribute or sell tobacco, including any smoking device, on district premises, at school-sponsored activities on or off district premises and in district-owned, rented or leased vehicles.

Staff and/or all others authorized to use district vehicles to transport district students to school-sponsored activities are prohibited from using tobacco in those vehicles while students are under their care.

For the purposes of this policy, “tobacco” is defined to include tobacco in any form and/or any nicotine delivering devices. This does not include FDA approved nicotine replacement therapy products used for the purpose of cessation.

This policy shall be in effect and enforceable at all times regardless of whether or not school is in session. The Superintendent or designee shall post appropriate signs prohibiting tobacco use in accordance with law.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations as necessary to implement this policy, including provisions for notification of the district’s policy to students, staff, and visitors, through such means as student/parent and staff handbooks, newsletters, inclusion on school event programs; disciplinary consequences; and procedures for filing and handling complaints about violations of the district’s policy.

The Superintendent shall consult with local officials to promote enforcement of law that prohibits the possession of tobacco by minors on or off district grounds.

Note: Federal law does permit the use of tobacco products in a private residence. The following language clarifies whether or not your district will permit smoking in district-provided housing.

This policy also applies to any private residence owned or leased by the district for housing purposes.

All employees and staff 18 years and older may be referred to Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line 1-800-QUIT NOW, which is a free tobacco cessation resource. The Quit Line is operated by the Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

AASB POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL

9/92

Students

TOBACCO

BP 5131.62(a)

Note: AS 18.35.20 prohibits the designation of smoking sections for students. It is unlawful for minors to give, sell, use, or possess cigarettes or other tobacco products. AS 11.76.100-.105. Minors include all persons under 19 years of age.

Tobacco use presents a health hazard with serious consequences both for tobacco users and non-users alike. Students shall not be allowed to smoke, chew or possess tobacco or nicotine products on school property or during school hours, at school-sponsored events on or off campus, or under the supervision of district employees.

For the purposes of this policy, “tobacco” is defined to include, but not be limited to, any cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe tobacco, loose tobacco, electronic cigarette, bidi, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product; and smokeless or spit tobacco in any form, such as iqmik, dip, chew, snuff, or snus, or dissolvable. Under this definition, all nicotine products are derived from tobacco unless proven otherwise. This policy excludes FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy for the purpose of tobacco cessation. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying a lighted or heated cigarette, cigar, pipe, hookah, or tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, or using an electronic nicotine delivery system (such as an electronic cigarettes or vapes), or other smoking device.

Clothing, bags, hats and other personal items used by students to display, promote or advertise tobacco products are prohibited on district grounds, at school-sponsored activities or in district vehicles. 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, including scholarships, from the tobacco industry is similarly prohibited.

Student violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action up to and including suspension. The district shall provide positive alternatives to suspension, such as in-school suspension, educational programs, school and community service, and promotion of cessation resources. Students may also be subject to removal from any or all extracurricular activities and/or denial or forfeiture of school honors or privileges (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian, student body, class or club office positions, field trips, senior trip, prom, etc.). A referral to law enforcement shall be made. Parents shall be notified of all violations involving their student and action taken by the school.

The District recommends providing instruction regarding the effects of tobacco use on the human body and taking steps to discourage students from tobacco use.

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Staff responsible for teaching tobacco use prevention will be encouraged when funds/resources allow to collaborate with agencies and groups that conduct tobacco use prevention education and to participate in ongoing professional development activities that provide basic knowledge about the effects of tobacco use, effective instructional techniques and program-specific activities. As part of the district's tobacco use prevention activities, the Superintendent shall recommend to the curriculum committee the use of evidence-based instructional programs as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or approved by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Programs will be integrated within the health education program and be age- and developmentally-appropriate. Instruction should be provided at every level, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, with particular emphasis on grades six through eight.

Students

TOBACCO

BP 5131.62(b)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion)

Note: AS 14.30.360 encourages the establishment of a comprehensive health education.
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(cf. 5142 - Safety)

(cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-free Schools/Smoking)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

11.76.100-.105 Selling or giving tobacco to a minor; possession of tobacco by a minor

14.30.360 Curriculum (Health and Safety Education)

18.35.300 - 18.35.330 Health nuisances (smoking)