

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL CAMPUSES

The Portsmouth City School Board recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, employees, visitors, and school facilities. The Board believes that the use of tobacco products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, on school property, or at school-related or school-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors.

The Board acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students. The Board also recognizes that it has an obligation to promote positive role models in schools and to promote a healthy learning and working environment, free from unwanted smoke and tobacco use, for students, employees, and visitors on the school campus.

Tobacco Use Prohibited

No student, staff member, or school visitor is permitted to use tobacco product at any time, including nonschool hours (24/7):

- in any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the Portsmouth City Public Schools;
- on any school grounds and property—including athletic fields and parking lots -- owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the Portsmouth City Public Schools; or
- at any school-sponsored or school-related event on campus or off campus.

In addition, school division employees, school volunteers, contractors, or other persons performing services on behalf of the Portsmouth City Public Schools are prohibited from using tobacco products at any time while on duty and in the presence of students, either on or off school grounds.

Further, no students shall be permitted to possess a tobacco product while in any school building, while on school grounds or property, or at any school-sponsored or school-related event, or at any other time that students are under the authority of school personnel.

Tobacco products may be included in instructional or research activities in public school buildings, if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instructional or research project, and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

Definition of Tobacco Products and Tobacco Use

For the purpose of this regulation, “tobacco product” is defined to include cigarettes, cigars, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, nicotine vapor products (e.g., electronic cigarettes), alternative nicotine products, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. “Tobacco use” includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.

Signage

Signs will be posted in a manner and location that adequately notify students, staff, and visitors about the 100 percent tobacco-free school division policy.

Enforcement for Students

Consequences for students' engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with *The Code of Student Conduct*. Students who violate the school division's tobacco use policy will be referred to the guidance counselor, a school nurse, or some other health or counseling services for all offenses for health information, counseling, and referral. Parents/guardians will be notified of all violations and action taken by the school.

Enforcement for Staff and Visitors

Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies and may include a verbal warning, a written reprimand, or termination. Visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on school property or leave the premises. Law-enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing, if the person refuses to leave the school property. Forfeiture of any fee charged for admission will be enforced for visitors violating this regulation.

Opportunities for Cessation

The central-administrative staff will consult with the city health department and other appropriate health organizations to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems, programs, and services in order to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

Prevention Education

The central-administrative staff will consult with appropriate health organizations to identify and provide programs or opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco use as it relates to providing a safe, orderly, clean, and inviting school environment.

Procedures for Implementation

The central-administrative staff will develop an action plan for communicating this regulation which will be included in student and employee handbooks, announcements at school-sponsored or school-related events, and appropriate signage in buildings and around the school campus. An enforcement protocol--which identifies consequences for students, staff, and visitors who violate the policy--will be created and communicated to all students, staff, parents, and community members.

Adopted: May 26, 2016