

TOBACCO PRODUCT USE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to set forth standards and guidelines which will assure School Department compliance with the “Smoking Restrictions in School Act” (R.I.G.L. 23-20.9-1 et seq.) while also protecting the rights of students, employees and the general public, and creating an environment which reinforces the school department philosophy of teaching students about the hazards of tobacco products.

PHILOSOPHY:

The North Kingstown School Committee is dedicated to insuring a healthy atmosphere in which to work, teach and learn. This goal is in harmony with the “Smoking Restrictions in School Act” which prohibits the use of tobacco products in and on school property. The School Committee supports the establishment of a completely tobacco-free environment.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The North Kingstown School Committee prohibits the use of tobacco products on school property, or school-sponsored events, by any person, employee, student, or adult, utilizing any of the district's facilities. This policy has been in place since September 1, 1994.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited on school property or within school buildings. Neither shall there be any use of tobacco products within twenty-five (25) feet of a school building.

Definitions:

School property shall be defined as all buildings, grounds, athletic fields, playgrounds, parking lots, and vehicles under the control of the school department.

School buildings shall include but not be limited to, all school playgrounds, school administration buildings, indoor school athletic facilities, school gymnasiums, school locker rooms, school buses, and other vehicles.

Tobacco products shall include but not be limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping products and paraphernalia, cigars, pipes, or the use of snuff or smokeless tobacco; this also prohibits having in one's possession a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other substance or item containing tobacco.

Enforcement Procedures:

Student: Students found using or in possession of any tobacco product shall be subject to the sanctions and procedures as contained in the Administrative Regulations pertaining to use and possession of tobacco products or paraphernalia.

Staff: First Offense - The Administrator or Central Office Director shall inform the staff or faculty person of the "Tobacco Product Use" policy. The Administrator/Director will encourage the employee to participate in a smoking cessation program.

Second Offense - The employee shall receive a verbal warning by the Administrator/Director, followed by a letter within three days of the violation.

Third (and subsequent) Offense(s) -The Administrator/Director will report the repeated violation(s) to the Superintendent and the bargaining unit representative. The employee will be subject to disciplinary action (up to and including suspension and dismissal) as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Visitors: Visitors who are observed smoking or using tobacco products in school facilities will be informed of the "Tobacco Product Use" policy, and will be asked by any faculty, staff, or administrative person to refrain from using tobacco products immediately. If the individual fails to comply with the request, his/her violation will be referred to the Building Administrator, Director, or person in charge, who shall decide on further action to be taken, which may include a directive to leave the school building. Repeated violations may result in a recommendation to the Superintendent to prohibit the individual from entering the school building for a specified period of time.

As of June 1995, it is deemed that the sign stating "Tobacco Free" will be sufficient notice of this policy. Any person wishing to review the policy may request a copy of it from the Central Administration Office.

Reference: Rhode Island General Laws 23-20.9-1 et seq.
 Adopted: October 6, 1986
 Amended: August 2, 1993
 Amended: July 5, 1994
 Amended: April 24, 2002
 Amended: April 24, 2018