

Regulations for the Prohibition of Tobacco Products
and Nicotine Vapor Products for All Persons

The Prince Edward County School Board recognizes the use of tobacco products and nicotine vapor products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, employees, visitors, and school facilities.

The Board believes that the use of tobacco products and nicotine vapor products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, on school property or at 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 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.

DEFINITIONS - For policy purposes

"Tobacco product" means any product made of tobacco and includes cigarettes, cigars, blunts, chewing or smokeless tobacco, snuff, electronic smoking devices, pipe tobacco, bidis, and wrappings. "Tobacco product" does not include any nicotine vapor product, alternative nicotine product, or product that is regulated by the FDA under Chapter V (21 U.S.C. § 351 et seq.) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

"Tobacco use" includes smoking, chewing, dipping, electronic smoking device use, or any other use of tobacco products.

"Nicotine vapor product" means any noncombustible product containing nicotine that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce vapor from nicotine in a solution or other form. "Nicotine vapor product" includes any electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device and any cartridge or other container of nicotine in a solution or other form that is intended to be used with or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device.

"Nicotine vapor product" does not include any product regulated by the FDA under Chapter V (21 U.S.C. § 351 et seq.) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCT USE PROHIBITED

No persons are permitted to use or distribute any tobacco product at any time, including non-school hours, in school property, on school premises, and at school-sponsored activities away from school grounds including: in any building, structure, or vehicle owned, leased or contracted by the Division, both on and off-site in any property surrounding buildings and structures, athletic grounds, parking lots, or any other outdoor property owned, leased or contracted by the Division, both on- and off-site.

In addition, no student shall be permitted to possess a tobacco product under the circumstances described above--including while in school property, on school premises, at school-sponsored activities away from school grounds, or at any other time that students are under the authority of school personnel.

COMMUNICATION

The Administration will develop a communication plan about the policy and enforcement procedures, including information in student and employee handbooks and announcements at school-related events. Appropriate signage will be posted in buildings and on school property in a manner and location that adequately informs students, staff, and visitors of the policy, including at entrance to school buildings and athletic events.

ENFORCEMENT FOR STUDENTS

Progressive disciplinary action will be used, beginning with supportive options to promote positive student outcomes such as tobacco education or referral to counseling, parent conferences and school or community service. Disciplinary penalties for students may include, but are not limited to, suspension of the student from school or a recommendation for expulsion when there is evidence of repeated and continuous violation of this policy.

Referrals to resources to help students overcome tobacco addictions shall be provided to those who are found to be in violation of School Board policy and administrative regulations.

ENFORCEMENT FOR STAFF AND VISITORS

Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco policy will be in accordance with personnel policies. Referrals to resources to help staff overcome tobacco addictions shall be provided to those who are found to be in violation of policy or regulations. Visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain or leave the premises.

If the person refuses to leave, law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing. Forfeiture of any fee charged for admission will be enforced for visitors violating this policy.

REPORTING

All Division employees are expected to cooperate in the enforcement of this policy. Student and staff violations shall be reported to administrative personnel.

No school employee who in good faith reports any known or suspected use, possession or distribution of tobacco or nicotine products shall be held liable for any civil damages as a result of such report or efforts to enforce this policy.

The Superintendent will establish procedures for employees to receive training in the provisions and enforcement of policy and regulations, existing and emerging tobacco products, trends in youth tobacco and nicotine product use, prevention education, and cessation support on an annual basis.

TOBACCO PREVENTION EDUCATION

The Administration may 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.

TRACKING AND EVALUATION

The Division will monitor enforcement of the policy and the impact on student tobacco use by tracking student violations and utilizing data to plan appropriate prevention and enforcement efforts. A review of Division-wide policy compliance will be conducted annually.

EXCEPTIONS

Lawful possession or use of a tobacco-cessation product approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration shall be permitted by staff as well as permitted by students following Division policies for student self-administration of medications. Tobacco products may be included for demonstration purposes in instructional or research activities as a necessary component of tobacco prevention or cessation programming as long as it does not include smoking, chewing, inhaling, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product and is: approved by the school conducted by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research project.

Adopted: September 4, 2019

Cross Reference:	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	GBEC	Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products
	GBEC-R	Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products
	JFCH	Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products
	JFCH-R	Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products
	KG	Community Use of School Facilities
	KGB	Public Conduct on School Property