

Tobacco- Free Schools Policy - Student

Code JICG

2/8/10 Draft

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for a tobacco-free Charleston County School District.

The board believes that tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke (environmental tobacco smoke) are hazardous to the health of human beings, especially children. Therefore, the board affirms that one of the best methods of instruction is one that is provided within a 100% tobacco-free environment.

Goal

The goal of this policy is a 100% tobacco-free, smoke-free environment for all students, staff and visitors on all district property, within all district facilities and vehicles, and at all district-sponsored events by doing the following:

1. Exhibiting healthy behavior for all students, staff, visitors and the entire community
2. Utilizing proven and effective science-based tobacco use prevention curricula
3. Providing access to smoking cessation counseling or referral services for all students and staff.

Procedures

1. Prohibit the use and/or possession by students of all tobacco products or paraphernalia including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco and snuff. This restriction applies to school grounds, in school buildings, in personal vehicles on school property, on buses or in any other Charleston County School District vehicle, during any time under the administrative jurisdiction of the school, whether on or off school grounds.
2. Ensure that tobacco use prevention programs, as recommended by South Carolina DHEC, South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, and the South Carolina Department of Education, are an integral part of district substance abuse prevention efforts.
3. Provide and/or refer to smoking cessation services for students and staff.
4. Ensure that signs designating smoke-free facilities are conspicuously displayed. The principal of each school is responsible for the display of these signs.
5. Prohibit any advertising by the tobacco industry on school grounds, in school buildings, on buses, and during any school activities.

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Enforcement

The Charleston County School District will enforce this Tobacco-Free policy by determining appropriate disciplinary actions for violations. Actions may be inclusive of the following:

Students

- Parent/legal guardian/administrator conferences
- Mandatory enrollment in tobacco prevention education
- Community Service
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension
- Suspension from extracurricular activities
- Possession of tobacco products by minors under the age of 18 is made unlawful under S.C. Code § 16-117-500(E)(1).

Education and Assistance

The Charleston County School District will be responsible for utilizing proven and effective science-based tobacco use prevention curricula to educate all students, provide assistance, and/or make appropriate smoking cessation referrals.

Tobacco Industry Marketing or Sponsorship

The district will not accept any contributions or gifts, money or materials from the tobacco industry. The district will not participate in any type of services that are funded by the tobacco industry. In addition, no gear, paraphernalia, clothing, etc., that advertises tobacco use or tobacco products will be allowed on district grounds, or in the possession of students at district-sponsored events.