

STUDENT TOBACCO USE

The Brick Township Board of Education recognizes that the use of tobacco is highly addictive, is seen as a gateway to drug use, presents a serious health hazard for the user, and in the case of smoking, also presents a serious health hazard for those around the user; further, a habit of tobacco use developed by the young may have lifelong deleterious consequences.

Thus the Board prohibits the use on school grounds, as outlined in Policy No. 3515 the District's Tobacco-Free School Policy.

The Board further acknowledges that prevention and intervention, rather than punishment, are the most effective ways to address potential violations of its Tobacco-Free School Policy.

Prevention Education

The Board directs the Administration to:

- Ensure that the health curriculum includes instruction in the health hazards of tobacco use.
- Consult with the appropriate health organizations to identify and provide programs that offer opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco use on the maintenance of a safe, orderly, clean, and inviting school environment.
- Ensure that all school staff, by example and persuasion, make every reasonable effort to discourage pupils from using tobacco products.
- Develop notification procedures to inform students, faculty/staff, parents/guardians, and visitors of this policy.
- Consult with the county health department and other appropriate health organizations (e.g. American Lung Association, American Cancer Society) to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems, programs and services (e.g. NJDHSS Quitline, Quitnet, or Quitcenters) to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

Violations

Students who violate the District's Tobacco-Free School Policy shall be referred to the district student assistance counselor (SAC), guidance counselor, school nurse, or for other health and/or counseling services for health information, counseling, and referral to a cessation program, as appropriate to the offense and situation.

Parents/guardians will be notified immediately of all violations and actions to be taken by the District with regard to their student's tobacco use.

Through the regulations associated with this policy, the Administration shall develop and implement an Alternative-to-Suspension (ATS) program for students who violate the District's Tobacco-Free School Policy. The ATS Program will provide students with up-to-date information on the many harmful consequences of tobacco use, offer students techniques they can use to stop tobacco use, and provide referrals to local youth tobacco-cessation programs, as appropriate to the student's situation. As part of the ATS Program, the regulations may use community service as a consequence for tobacco violations.

A student who violates the District's Tobacco-Free School Policy has the choice to participate in the ATS Program or serving a suspension. If a student violates the policy a third time, suspension is the only consequence. Such pupils may also be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures and fines in accordance with law.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

"Tobacco product" is defined to include, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, and all other forms of smokeless tobacco, rolling papers and any other item containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products (with the exception of cessation products.)

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

"Smoking" means the burning of, inhaling the smoke from, exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, any other matter or substance which contains tobacco, or any other matter than can be smoked.

“School Grounds” means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and vehicles owned, operated, or used for the provision of academic or extracurricular programs sponsored by the District or community provider, and structures that support these buildings, including, but not limited to, administrative buildings, kitchens, maintenance shops, and garages.

“School Grounds” also includes other facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2, including playgrounds and other recreational places owned by location municipalities, private entities or other individuals during those time when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A-40A-1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 et seq. New Jersey Smoke-Free Act

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.1(a)7 Establishment of comprehensive alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse program.

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.2(a)4 Policies and procedures for school facility operation

No Child Left Behind Act Prohibition of indoor smoking in any facility where children are cared for or educated with exceptions for inpatient addiction treatment and private residences (2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.).

First Reading: September 15, 2011

Adopted: