

## **Tobacco-Free Environment**

Morrow County School District recognizes that tobacco use is directly related to serious health problems. These include addition, related cancers, lung and cardiovascular disease. Tobacco use is the major preventable cause of debilitating disease and premature death in the United State. Moreover, research conclusively shows that:

1. Tobacco is a gateway drug.
2. Regular use of tobacco is harmful to every user's health.
3. Second-hand smoke is a serious health risk.
4. Nicotine is a powerfully addictive substance.
5. Tobacco use most often begins during childhood or adolescence.
6. The younger a person starts using tobacco, the more likely he/she will become addicted and suffer health problems.
7. Many tobacco users die an early, preventable death because of their decision to use tobacco.

Therefore, it is the district's intent to protect the health and safety of students, staff and visitors. Consequently, school personnel shall act as mentors and role models for students concerning tobacco products. This policy is intended to promote and communicate a positive, pro-active approach to tobacco control.

### **CONTENT**

The district strives to provide a healthy working environment and promote good health for students, staff and visitors. Therefore, the district prohibits the use and distribution of tobacco products in all buildings, on district property, in district vehicles and at all district-affiliated activities.

Tobacco use is defined as the possession and/or use of any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or any other smoking product. This includes spit tobacco and snuff in any form.

### **PREVENTION EDUCATION**

The district will provide a comprehensive, research-based K-12 tobacco prevention curriculum for all students, which will be strictly implemented. This includes education to prevent tobacco use, identification of risk-factors, benefits of remaining tobacco-free and application of refusal skills.

### **MARKETING/SPONSORSHIP PROHIBITION**

There shall be no displays, signs, advertising, material, clothing, gear or any other paraphernalia which promotes the use of tobacco products on any district property, in any district-owned vehicles, at any district-affiliated activities or in any district publication. The district will not knowingly accept donations

of gifts, money, materials or sponsorships from the tobacco industry or any company directly affiliated with the tobacco industry.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

It is the responsibility of administrators and staff to implement and enforce the district tobacco policy at all times. Any employee of the district who is aware of tobacco possession or use shall follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

**Tobacco Possession and/or Use by Staff:** Employees of Morrow County School District are viewed as mentors and role models for students. Therefore, staff members who violate the district's tobacco policy shall be subject to administrative disciplinary action.

**Tobacco Possession and/or Use by School Visitors:** School visitors who violate the district's tobacco policy shall be subject to the following actions: 1) If a school visitor is using any tobacco product, they shall be informed of the district's tobacco policy and be requested to comply. 2) If the person refuses to comply, the individual will be asked to leave district property or the district vehicle. 3) If the individual does not comply or is a repeat violator, local law enforcement authorities will be contacted.

**Tobacco Possession and/or Use by Students:** Students in violation of this policy will face disciplinary action as follows:

**First Offense:** 1) Staff confiscates tobacco product, if possible, and gives to the appropriate administrator. 2) A building administrator notifies parents/guardians of student's possession and/or tobacco use. 3) Student may be suspended for up to 4 days. 4) If under 18 years of age, the student will be referred to the local authorities for an MIP tobacco citation.

**Second Offense:** 1) Staff confiscates tobacco products, if possible, and gives to the appropriate administrator. 2) A building administrator schedules a meeting with the student and parents/guardians. 3) Student will be encouraged to complete a tobacco education class unless already having done so. 4) Students receive up to four (4) days in-school suspension. 5) If under 18 years of age, the student will be referred to the local authorities for an MIP tobacco citation.

**Third Offense:** 1) Staff confiscates tobacco products if possible and gives to the appropriate administrator. 2) Staff notifies parents/guardians of tobacco use and subsequent referral for expulsion. 3) If under 18 years of age, the student will be referred to the local authorities for an MIP tobacco citation. 4) Student will be suspended, and possible alternative placement considered, pending expulsion.

**CESSATION SUPPORT:** Tobacco violation repeat offenders will most likely be students in the process of tobacco addiction. Consequently, the district will provide information about tobacco intervention and cessation alternatives for students to assist them in eliminating their tobacco use. These alternatives will help students understand their tobacco behavior, health risks and develop skills for cessation.

**COMMUNICATION MECHANISM:** The district shall provide a uniform and coordinated effort for staff, students, parents, school visitors and the general public regarding existing tobacco policies.

## **Students**

Student handbooks will provide key elements of the tobacco policies and procedures.

Students shall discuss tobacco policies and procedures with staff at student orientations for middle school, high school, alternative school and when transferring into the district.

Students shall be informed of tobacco cessation opportunities.

## **Parents/Guardians**

Discuss and inform parents/guardians of tobacco policies and procedures through parent meetings, in-district mailings and other media as appropriate.

**School Visitors** The district shall:

1. Post “No Tobacco Use” or other appropriate signs.
2. Announce the policy at all events.
3. Communicate tobacco policies and procedures to volunteers assisting with student events for both on/off campus activities.
4. Discuss relevant tobacco policies with vendors, contractors and others who provide supplies, materials and services to the school district.
5. Communicate tobacco policies and procedures to any group utilizing district facilities.

## **PROCEDURES**

The Office of the Superintendent or its appointed designee shall be responsible for the following tobacco policy components:

1. Implementation
2. Communicating the district tobacco policies to staff, students, parents, school visitors and the general public.
3. Providing equitable enforcement.
4. Periodic review and revision.