

MSAD #28 POLICY

TOBACCO USE AND POSSESSION

MSAD #28 is dedicated to providing its students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment to learn, work and play. Tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable disease and death in Maine and the United States and research has shown that students addicted to tobacco products do not learn as well because they are focused on the need for more tobacco versus learning. The district has adopted a tobacco-free campus policy that prohibits the use of all tobacco products in school buildings, facilities, on school buses and at school sponsored events. This policy reflects and emphasizes the hazards of tobacco use, will assure compliance with laws, protect school community members from secondhand smoke, and role model tobacco-free lifestyles.

Policy Statement:

The Board mandates that all school buildings and property shall be tobacco-free 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. This also includes all days when school is not in session and all functions taking place on school grounds, such as athletic events or other activities not associated with, or sponsored by, the school. The policy applies to everyone on school grounds, in other school unit facilities, and school buses including students, school staff, parents and visitors.

The policy applies to the smoking or use of all tobacco products, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, spit and smokeless tobacco, chew, snuff, snus, electronic cigarettes, vape products and other electronic nicotine delivery systems.

In addition, students are further prohibited from possessing, selling, distributing or dispensing tobacco products and tobacco-related devices and products in school buildings, facilities and on school grounds and buses during school-sponsored events and at all other times.

Employees and all other persons are also strictly prohibited, under law and Board policy, from selling, distributing or in any way dispensing tobacco products and tobacco-related devices and products to students.

Communication:

This policy will be communicated through a variety of efforts to educate students, school staff, parents and visitors. Tobacco-free signs posted in highly visible areas at facility entrances and throughout the school property, including athletic facilities. The policy will be referenced on the school website and printed in student and staff handbooks and the adult education catalog on an annual basis.

Information regarding tobacco treatment resources, such as onsite counseling and the Maine Tobacco Help Line (1-800-207-1230) will be made available for tobacco users who are interested in quitting.

Legal Reference:

- 22 MRSA §§ 1578(B), 1580(A)(3)
- ME. PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use by Minors)
- 20 USC 6081-6084 (Pro-Children Act of 1994)

Cross Reference:

- JICA – Student Dress
- JL – Student Wellness
- KF – Community Use of School Facilities
- KHB – Advertising in the Schools

History: Adopted: 03/19/08, 06/20/13

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