

Policy 2401
TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY (SBBC) RECOGNIZES THAT THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS A HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD FOR STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, PARENTS, VISITORS, AND SCHOOL FACILITIES. THE SCHOOL BOARD BELIEVES THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AND ON SCHOOL PROPERTY IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS. SMOKING AND OTHER USES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ARE DETRIMENTAL TO HEALTH AND A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR TO MEDICAL ISSUES AND DEATH. A TOBACCO-FREE POLICY PREPARES STUDENTS FOR THE REALITIES OF AN INCREASINGLY TOBACCO-FREE WORLD - ONE WHERE TOBACCO USE IS PROHIBITED AT WORKSITES, IN RESTAURANTS, ON AIRPLANES, IN MALLS AND IN OTHER PLACES. THUS, THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY IS TO ESTABLISH THAT SBBC MAINTAINS A TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT, TO PROVIDE FOR NOTIFICATION TO THE PUBLIC AND TO DISTRICT EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS, AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE POLICY.

I. Applicability of Policy

This policy applies to students, employees, volunteers, parents, spectators and visitors.

II. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. *At any time* means during normal school and non-school hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- b. *Electronic cigarette (e-cigarette)* means any oral device that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine, lobelia, and/or other substance, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such devices, whether they are manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as e- cigarette, e-cigars, e-pipes. or under any other product name or descriptor.
- c. *Tobacco product* is any lighted or unlighted cigarettes, cigars, clove cigarette, blunts, bidis, pipes, hookah, chewing tobacco, snuff, [nicotine gum](#) and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.

~~*Off-campus, school-sponsored event means any event sponsored solely by the school or school district that is not on school property, including but not limited to, sporting events, day camps, field trips, seminars, dances or theatrical productions.*~~

- d. *NRT (nicotine replacement therapy) products* are the FDA-approved nicotine products used for tobacco cessation to ease nicotine withdrawal symptoms so that the cessation client can make the behavioral changes necessary to become tobacco free. Approved NRT includes patches, gum, lozenges (over the counter) and nicotine inhaler and nicotine nasal spray (prescription only).
- e. District property means in, on or within 100 feet of any building facility, school, school grounds, land/property or vehicle owned, leased, chartered or rented by SBBC. This does not include school bus stops located away from District property (F.S. 386.212).

III. Policy Statement

No student, employee, volunteer, contractor or school visitor is permitted to use tobacco products of any kind or electronic cigarettes at any time in, on or during the following:

- a. Any building, facility, school grounds, property or vehicle owned, leased, chartered or rented by the District, including but not limited to, district offices, athletic/ practice fields, playgrounds, parking lots, and administrative offices. The policy does not apply to school bus stops located away from District property.

~~b. At any off-campus, school-sponsored event.~~

b. All students must abide by the Code of Student Conduct (SB Policy 5.8) as it relates to tobacco and tobacco-related products for use, possession, sale and/or transmittal.

IV. Exceptions

- a. A school principal or District administrator may permit tobacco products to be included in counseling, educational or instructional or research activities in the school building if the activity is conducted or supervised by a District employee overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not involve smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.
- b. Products related to Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) are permissible.

V. Notification of Policy and Implementation

Appropriate signage will be posted in a manner and location on all District property that adequately notify employees, students, parents, visitors and the public of this policy.

VI. Tobacco Promotion Prohibited

Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school grounds, School Board owned transportation, [school vehicles](#), in all school-sponsored publications, and at all school-sponsored events.

Tobacco promotional items that promote the use of tobacco products, including but not limited to, clothing, bags, lighters and other articles are not permitted on school grounds, in School Board owned vehicles or at school sponsored events.

VII. Educational and Cessation Programs

- A. *Prevention Education for Students:* The administration will consult with Student Support Initiatives and other 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. The administration will ensure students in grades K-12 receive tobacco prevention education in health/health-related classes and/or prevention activities using sequential, age-appropriate, current, accurate, evidence-informed curricula and a skills-based approach (involving students in active “hands-on” learning experiences).
- B. *Cessation Support Programs:* The administration will consult with Student Support Initiatives, Employee Wellness in the Benefits Department, Florida Department of Health in Broward County, American Lung Association and other appropriate health organizations to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems, tobacco use cessation programs, and services to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

VIII. Responsibility of School and District Administrators

- a. Communicate this policy annually (at the beginning of each school year) to students, employees, family members, volunteers, vendors and visitors, at school events, through signage, and school handbooks. Student Support Initiatives and Benefits Departments in collaboration with appropriate health organizations to provide audiovisual resources for use by administrators.

[Notice of this policy going into effect and available resources will be communicated to students, employees, family members, volunteers, vendors and visitors immediately upon approval of the policy.](#)

- b. Treat violators who are students or employees with disciplinary actions consistent with School Board policies.

- c. Ensure family members, volunteers or visitors who violate the policy discontinue using the tobacco product or electronic cigarette or leave the premises. Law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing if the person refuses to leave the school property.
- d. Include the expectation that the prohibition will be enforced in contracts with outside groups who use the school building and other facilities.

IX. Disciplinary Actions for Student or Employee Violators

Students: Consequences for students engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with the school's student behavior management plan and in accordance with the District's Discipline Matrix.

Employees: Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies or any relevant collective bargaining agreement.

Visitors: Visitors will be requested to discontinue use. If the visitor refuses to comply with the request to discontinue, the visitor will be escorted off District property by security/law enforcement.

X. Effective date of policy:

This policy will go into effect on July 1, 2014.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001, 1001.41

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 386.209, 386.212

HISTORY: