

5533 Tobacco-Free School District

The Point Pleasant Borough Board of Education recognizes that the use of tobacco products poses health, safety, and environmental hazards for students, employees, visitors, and school facilities; and that the Board has an obligation to provide a healthy learning and work environment for students, employees, and visitors to the school campus.

Further, the Board acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students, and that the Board has an obligation to promote positive role models for its students.

Therefore, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A: 16-3.1, the Board declares Point Pleasant Borough School District to be a tobacco-free school district and prohibits the use of all tobacco products on school grounds at all times, including:

- All buildings, facilities, and vehicles owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the district;
- All school grounds and property – including athletic fields and parking lots – owned, leased, rented, utilized or chartered by the district; and
- All school-sponsored or school-related events, on-campus or off-campus (e.g., field trips, proms, sporting events off campus, etc.)

In addition, the Board prohibits school district employees, school volunteers, contractors, or other persons performing services on behalf of the school district (e.g., bus drivers, custodians, etc.) from using tobacco products at any time while on duty in accordance with their contracts or in the presence of students, either on or off school grounds.

Further, the Board prohibits students to possess tobacco products at any school-sponsored or school-related event or at any other time that students are under the authority of school personnel.

Exception

Tobacco products may be included in instructional or research activities in school buildings if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.



Signs

Signs indicating that Point Pleasant Borough is a tobacco-free district and that tobacco use is prohibited on school grounds, as defined above, will be posted at each public entrance in accordance with law.

Violations

Faculty or staff who violate the district's Tobacco-Free School Policy may be referred to the appropriate school personnel for resources and information about tobacco cessation programs. District employees who repeatedly violate the policy or do not comply with intervention or cessation referrals may be subject to consequences in accordance with district policy and their contract.

Visitors using tobacco products will be informed about the policy and asked to cease tobacco use while on school property.

The Principal or designee may order the departure and removal of any person who continues to violate this policy after being ordered to cease using tobacco products on school grounds, and may request the assistance of law enforcement to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing if the person refuses to leave school property.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

“Tobacco product” is defined to include, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and all other forms of smokeless tobacco, rolling papers, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products (with the exception of FDA approved 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 that 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 local municipalities, private entities or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.

STUDENT TOBACCO USE

The Point Pleasant Borough Board of Education recognizes that the use of tobacco products 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 of tobacco products on school grounds, as outlined in 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 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 to provide students and employees with information and access to



support systems, programs and services 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's 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 of the 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, but shall pose suspension as a consequence only after a student has violated the policy three or more times or has refused to participate in other measures outlined in the regulations. Such pupils may also be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures and fines in accordance with law.

Legal References:

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

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

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.).

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

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November 21, 2011

