

TOBACCO FREE ENVIRONMENT

Policy

The Edmond Public Schools Board of Education is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive environment for staff, students, and citizens. In support of that commitment and in recognition of the following facts, a Smoke Free Environment Policy is adopted: 1) The use of tobacco products involves significant health risks for the user, and 2) Risks extend to non-smokers who can be adversely affected by breathing the toxic products that tobacco smoke adds to the air.

Smoking and the use of tobacco products in any form, as well as the use of simulated tobacco products, are prohibited on School District property. This prohibition includes school buildings, grounds, and school-owned vehicles. It is specifically directed that this ban on the use of tobacco products will be in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will apply to students, staff, visitors and anyone providing service to the schools.

Additionally, students at all times and employees, when functioning in an official capacity and except in privately owned vehicles, are prohibited from possessing or distributing tobacco products in school buildings, on school grounds, in school-owned vehicles, and at all school affiliated functions on or off school campus.

The Edmond Public Schools prohibits the advertising of tobacco products on school property and in school publications. This prohibition also includes gear, paraphernalia, clothing, etc., that display and/or promote tobacco products.

Additionally, Edmond Public Schools will actively promote referral sources for smoking cessation programs to students, staff and faculty.

Enforcement

The success of this policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of smokers and non-smokers. All individuals on school premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Any individual who observes a violation on school property may report it in accordance with the procedures listed below.

Students: Any violation of this policy by students will be referred to the building administrator. Students who violate provisions of this policy will be subject to student discipline procedures.

Staff: Any violation of this policy by staff will be referred to the appropriate supervisor. One written warning will be issued to the staff member with a copy placed in his or her District personnel file. Further violations will be considered willful neglect of duty and will be dealt with accordingly based on established policies and procedures for suspension, demotion, dismissal and non-renewal of staff.

Citizens: Citizens who are observed smoking or using tobacco products on School District property will be asked to refrain from smoking on school property. If the individual fails to comply with the request, his or her violation of policy may be referred to the building principal or other School District supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program during which the violation occurred. The supervisor shall make a decision on further action that may include a directive to leave school property. Repeated violations may result in a recommendation to the Superintendent or Board of Education to prohibit the individual from entering School District property for a specified period of time. If deemed necessary by the school administration or the Board of Education, local law enforcement officials may be called upon to assist with enforcement of this policy.