



Lawrence Public Schools

Policy of the School Committee

Section A: FOUNDATIONS AND BASIC COMMITMENTS

ADC

Subject: TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS

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POLICY STATEMENT

The Lawrence School Committee endorses the philosophy that every student, staff person and visitor to a School Department facility ought to have the right to breath clean air. Scientists have now identified passive smoking, the smoke that nonsmokers involuntarily inhale, as a contributing factor in the leading causes of avoidable fatal illness, such as heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, and chronic pulmonary disease. Passive smoking kills more people per year than all other carcinogens currently regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency combined.

Allowing adults, but not students to smoke gives students the message that smoking is for adults, providing the powerful incentive for children to smoke.

The Lawrence School Committee is dedicated to establishing and maintaining a healthy, safe, comfortable and productive educational and work environment for its staff and students. Therefore, smoking and the use of all tobacco products is prohibited in all school district buildings, on school grounds, in all school vehicles at all times by all persons, including all employees, students, and visitors at any school district site or attending any school district sponsored activities, athletic events, and meetings.

In order to assist employees in complying with the Tobacco-Free Schools Policy all schools and offices will be provided with information on the hazards of smoking and how to stop smoking. The School Department will work cooperatively with external agencies to provide informational literature and facilitate access to community smoking cessation programs for both staff and students.

All staff, by means of instruction and example, should cooperate in an effort to discourage and to prevent student and staff smoking. The Health Education Curriculum, at all levels, should focus on the role of smoking as the leading cause of premature death and disability in our country and on the impact of long term exposure to involuntary or passive smoking on the nonsmoker.

It is the intent of the School Committee that a positive and supportive approach is taken toward enforcement of this policy. The success of this policy will depend upon the cooperation; thoughtfulness and ongoing efforts of all staff and students. All employees share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Any conflict should be brought to the attention of the appropriate administrator for the purpose of resolution.

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all staff, students and parents/guardians. NO SMOKING signs shall be posted at the entrance to all school district facilities, and displayed prominently inside these facilities.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:37H

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