

Tobacco-Free School Policy

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. In order to promote the health and safety of all students and school employees, optimal learning conditions, and the cleanliness of all facilities, the Mt Blue Regional School District School Board, hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” prohibits the use of all tobacco products in school buildings, facilities, and on school buses during school-sponsored events. The policy will reflect and emphasize the hazards of tobacco use; assure compliance with state and federal laws; protect the health and safety of all students, employees and the general public; and role model a non-tobacco use environment by adults.

Use of Tobacco Products on School Property

- | Tobacco is a leading killer and leading cause of preventable deaths in Maine. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students the Board adopts the following tobacco-free policy;
 - The Mt Blue Regional School District buildings and property shall be tobacco-free 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This includes all days when school is not in session and all functions taking place on school grounds, such as athletic functions and other activities not associated with, or sponsored by, the school.
 - Maine law prohibits possession or use of tobacco products by anyone less than 18 years of age.
 - Possession or use of tobacco products by students on district property or in school owned vehicles and at school-sponsored functions is prohibited.
 - Sale or distribution of tobacco products by anyone is prohibited at all times on the school campus.
 - The use of tobacco products by all school employees on school property or in school vehicles, bus stops and at school-sponsored functions is prohibited.
 - The use of tobacco products by all visitors on school property is prohibited. This includes non-school hours and all functions sponsored by the school or by others, including **any lessees or invitees, and** athletics, on or off school property.

- Advertising of tobacco products is prohibited in school buildings, on school property, at school functions, and in all school publications. This includes clothing that advertises tobacco products

Communication of Policy

This policy will be printed in both employee and student handbooks and adult education booklets on a yearly basis. Tobacco-free school signs will be posted in highly visible places both inside and outside all school buildings including the Central Office. Signs will be posted at all entrances of school buildings, school playgrounds and athletic fields. The maintenance staff will be responsible for maintaining signage. Parents and guardians shall be sent notification in writing, and the local media will be asked to communicate this tobacco-free policy community-wide. An announcement of the tobacco-free school policy will be made at all school events, including but not limited to athletics and drama. Age-appropriate tobacco prevention education will be incorporated into the Mt Blue Regional School District's K–12 comprehensive health education curriculum in alignment with the Maine Learning Results' Health Education Standards and will include awareness of the school policy.

Adopted: August 13, 1985

Revised: October 23, 1990

Revised: January 8, 1991

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Replaces: JICG, GBED, GBED-R, ADC