

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: TOBACCO PROHIBITION

DATE ADOPTED: September 19, 2023

PURPOSE

In accordance with state law, it is the policy of the Colchester School District to prohibit the use of tobacco or tobacco substitutes on school grounds or at school-sponsored functions. This ban extends to any student, employee or visitor to the school, and applies at all times, whether or not school is in session. Students are, furthermore, prohibited from possessing tobacco products, tobacco substitutes or tobacco paraphernalia at all times while under the supervision of school staff or at school-sponsored activities.

I. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, administrative rules, and procedures developed pursuant to this policy:

- A. School grounds** means any property and facilities owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities, including but not limited to school buildings, school buses/vans/taxis, areas adjacent to school buildings, athletic fields, and parking lots.
- B. School sponsored activity** means activities including but not limited to field trips, project graduation events, co-curricular events, sporting events, work internships, job shadows, and dances.
- C. Tobacco product** has the same meaning as set forth in 7 V.S.A. 1001(3), as amended from time to time.
- D. Tobacco paraphernalia** has the same meaning as set forth in 7 V.S.A. 1001(7), as amended from time to time.
- E. Tobacco substitutes** have the same meaning as set forth in 7 V.S.A. 1001(8), as amended from time to time.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent or their designee shall develop procedures, rules and regulations that are necessary to implement this policy and, at a minimum, will include provisions ensuring that tobacco products, tobacco substitutes or tobacco paraphernalia are confiscated when found in the possession of students and that referrals to law enforcement agencies are made when appropriate.

Last Adopted: September 19, 2017
 Date Warned: August 11, 2023
 First Reading: August 15, 2023
 Second Reading: September 19, 2023

A. Student Enforcement

1. Students are not permitted to use or possess tobacco products, tobacco substitutes or tobacco paraphernalia on their person in school buildings, on school busses, or on school grounds at any time.
2. Students violating the policy will be subject to the discipline rules and procedures as outlined in the CSD Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Abuse Policy and each school student handbook.

B. Faculty and Staff Enforcement

1. Failure to comply constitutes a violation of School Board policy and may result in possible disciplinary action.
2. The administration and supervisors are responsible for enforcing the policy with school personnel. With non-school personnel, the administration's responsibility is to educate and to provide information about the policy.

C. Communication

1. The administration will communicate this policy to all employees and students.
2. Signs indicating this policy are placed in strategic locations throughout the district.
3. Coaches will communicate this policy to their players. Also, the policy will be announced before each athletic event.

D. Education

1. All schools will emphasize the importance of being tobacco free and will provide early intervention to prevent the use of tobacco products through smoking, vaping or chewing.
2. The administration will continue to support a variety of options focused on helping individuals to quit smoking, vaping or chewing tobacco.