

# **NORTH DAKOTA'S COMPREHENSIVE MODEL SCHOOL POLICY FOR TOBACCO USE**

Updated August 24, 2010

## **RATIONALE FOR REGULATING POSSESSION AND USE**

The health hazards of tobacco use have been well established. This policy is established to:

1. Reduce the high incidence of tobacco use in North Dakota.
2. Protect the health and safety of all students, employees and the general public.
3. Set a non-tobacco-use example by adults.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in North Dakota. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students, the School Board of \_\_\_\_\_ establishes the following tobacco-free policy:

## **DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include any product that contains tobacco, is manufactured from tobacco, or contains nicotine. This excludes any FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy.

## **USE AND POSSESSION PROHIBITIONS**

### **Students:**

Possession and/or use of tobacco products by students on district property, in district vehicles and at school-sponsored events (whether on or off district property) is prohibited at all times.

### **Staff/Visitors:**

The use of tobacco products by all school employees and visitors on district property, in district vehicles and at school-sponsored events (whether on or off district property) is prohibited.

This policy includes all events sponsored by the school and all events on school property that are not sponsored by, or associated with, the school.

### **Additional:**

The School District will not allow advertising of tobacco products in school buildings, on school property, at school functions on district property and in all school publications. This includes clothing that advertises tobacco products.

The School District will not accept any gifts (such as curriculum, book covers, speakers, etc.) or funds from the tobacco industry.

## **COMMUNICATING TO STUDENTS, STAFF AND PUBLIC**

This policy will be printed in employee and the student handbooks. It should be posted in highly visible places in all schools of the district, such as, but not limited to: all entrances of school buildings, school playgrounds, athletic fields and school-sponsored events (on district property). Parents will be sent notification in writing, and the local media will be asked to communicate this tobacco-free policy communitywide.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICY VIOLATIONS**

All individuals on the district's premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the enforcement and implementation of this policy.

**TOBACCO CESSATION SERVICES**

Individuals requesting assistance with tobacco cessation services will be referred to North Dakota Tobacco Quitline or North Dakota QuitNet. These are free cessation services provided to citizens of North Dakota.

**(Reference:** *Creating and Maintaining a Tobacco-Free School Policy*, Bureau of Health, Maine Department of Human Services; *Fit, Healthy, and Ready to Learn*, A School Health Policy Guide, National Association of State Boards of Education, North Dakota School Board Association)