

Tobacco-Free Schools Policy

The St. Tammany Parish Public School System prohibits the use of any tobacco products by students, employees, or visitors in all buildings, centers, offices, vehicles, schools, or other property under the jurisdiction of the School Board.

The use of any and all tobacco products by students is prohibited on any school grounds from the time they arrive until they leave school grounds and upon subsequent return to the school grounds at any time; and off school grounds whenever and wherever students are attending school-sponsored events or activities. Employees are prohibited from using smokeless tobacco products and smoking products while on or off school grounds performing service in the course and scope of their employment with the Board.

In addition, pursuant to LA R.S. 40:1300.251, *et seq*, there shall be no smoking or use of any tobacco products or smoking devices on or in any elementary or secondary school building; the campus of any school; any School Board offices or other property owned or operated by the Board, including the grounds of School Board property; or any school buses and other school- or School Board- owned vehicles or private vehicles used to transport students for school events. Smoking is defined to mean inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, E-cigarette devices and materials or possessing any lighted tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and any other lighted combustible plant material.

This policy of the St. Tammany Parish Public School System bans smoking and the use of all tobacco products or smoking devices at any and all School System facilities, including, but not limited to, all outdoor athletic facilities, such as baseball, softball, and football fields; track events; field trips; and off-campus school-approved activities where students are present.

The Tobacco-Free Schools Policy is intended to promote the general welfare of all employees, students, and visitors and to serve as an example to our students that the use of tobacco and tobacco like products are discouraged.

Implementation Plan

- Smoking cessation programs available through the School System and community, including the Louisiana Quitline: 1-800-QUIT-NOW, will be included on the list of Employee Assistance Program resources.
- Disciplinary action for violations includes the following:

Students shall be disciplined in accordance with the *District Handbook for Students and Parents*.

Employees may be subject to disciplinary action as per Article IX of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, their contract for employment, or law.

LA R.S. 40:1300.262, provides that employees and non-employees may be subject to a citation and summons from any law enforcement official. Any person found guilty of violating these prohibitions shall be fined \$25.00 for the first offense, \$50.00 for the second offense, and \$100.00 for the third and subsequent offenses.

- Communication of the policy will include the following:

Copies of the policy shall be distributed to all current employees.

New employees shall be provided copies of the policy as they sign up through the Human Resources Department.

“No Tobacco Use” signs shall be posted at the entrance of every school and work site as well as athletic, other outside areas, and other appropriate areas determined by the Superintendent or site administrator to include but not limited to all other public buildings owned by the Board.

A message about the Tobacco-Free Schools Policy from the Superintendent shall be sent to the parents of every student.

A notice shall be posted on the School System website.

Media releases shall be distributed.

Updated: 09/11/14.