

East Millinocket School Department

Rationale for 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 East Millinocket 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

Tobacco is the number one killer and leading cause of preventable death in Maine. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students the Board adopts the following tobacco-free policy.

East Millinocket School Department buildings and property (including parking lots) 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 vehicles and at school-sponsored functions is prohibited. The use of tobacco products by all school employees on school property or in school vehicles 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 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.

For the purpose of this policy, the term "tobacco product" means "any product made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, and any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product." This includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, dissolvable tobacco products, personal electronic vaporizing devices (e-cigarette's), and any vaping devices.

Communication of Policy

This policy will be printed in both employee and student handbooks 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 communitywide. 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 East Millinocket School Department's education curriculum and will include awareness of the school policy.

Regulations Governing Enforcement

Smoking Regulations for Students

Disciplinary Procedures

First Offense

- 1) Principal will verify and/or confiscate
- 2) Principal meets with parents/guardians and student
- 3) Principal will notify the superintendent
- 4) Refer student for assessment by the counselor, health nurse or person trained in tobacco prevention education and Maine Tobacco HelpLine 1-800-207-1230.

Consequences:

- a. In school/Out of school suspension for 1-5 days
- b. No school related activities for 14 school days
- c. Principal will consider a hearing with the school board
- d. Refer to policy JICH for athletes/ co-curricular participants

Second Offense

- 1) Principal will verify and/or confiscate
- 2) Principal meets with parents/guardians and student
- 3) Principal will notify the superintendent
- 4) Principal will notify the police
- 5) Refer student for assessment by the counselor, health nurse or person trained in tobacco prevention education and Maine Tobacco HelpLine 1-800-207-1230.
- 6) Parents and student report the follow up plan to the Principal for monitoring to help prevent reoccurrence.

Consequences:

- a. In school/out of school suspension for 5 or more days,
- b. No school related activities for 30-45 days
- c. Principal will consider a hearing with the school board.
- d. Refer to policy JICH for athletes/ co-curricular participants

NOTE: If parents do not seek assistance for the student, notify Department of Human Services.

Third Offense and Subsequent Offenses

- 1) Principal will verify and/or confiscate
- 2) Principal meets with parents/guardians and student
- 3) Principal will notify the superintendent
- 4) Principal will notify the police
- 5) Refer student for assessment by the counselor, health nurse or person trained in tobacco prevention education and Maine Tobacco HelpLine 1-800-207-1230.

Consequences:

- a. Out of School suspension until school board hearing for possible expulsion
- b. Refer to policy JICH for athletes/ co-curricular participants

PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

- 1) Remove from the function and/or return to school grounds
- 2) Call parent or guardian to assure responsibility
- 3) Call police department to transport home if parent cannot transport the child home
- 4) Notification of school administrator of incident
- 5) Refer to policy JICH for student athletes/ co-curricular participants

Regulations Governing Enforcement

Faculty/Staff

Faculty and staff include administrators, teachers, custodians, maintenance workers, aides, secretaries, teacher assistants, food service personnel, etc. These individuals may not use tobacco products during working hours or at any time on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event. Staff members will be subject to the following procedures:

First offense:

A written warning by the appropriate administrator. Refer to cessation program.

Second offense:

A formal reprimand by the appropriate administrator and a letter of same to be placed in personnel file. Refer to cessation program.

Third offense:

Meeting with the school board and possible leave without pay or dismissal. Refer to cessation program.

Visitors

Visitors to the school facilities must comply with regulations set forth by Board. The use of tobacco products by visitors is prohibited. This includes nonschool hours and all functions of the school. This also includes other organizations using school property.

Persons found using tobacco products will be asked by the appropriate school official to refrain from use while on school property. They will be informed of the school's tobacco-free policy. Persons who do not comply will be asked to leave the property. If they refuse to leave, the police may be called, and they may be charged with trespassing.

Legal References:

20 USC § 6081-6084 (Pro-Children Act of 1994)

22 MRSA § 1578-B

Me. PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use By Minors)

Cross References:

JK-Student Discipline

JKD-Suspension of Students

JICH- Drug and Alcohol use by Students

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