



# SCHOOL POLICY ON TOBACCO POSSESSION

2023-2024

## ABSTRACT

Ohio state law prohibits smoking inside any school building and prohibits students from using or possessing tobacco products on school grounds and at school activities.

**ANN JERKINS HARRIS ACADEMY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

*APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OCTOBER 21st, 2023*



# ANN JERKINS HARRIS ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE

3981 Martha Avenue, Toledo, OHIO 43612

## SCHOOL POLICY ON TOBACCO USE AND POSSESSION

### ORC Section 3313.751 | Prohibition against tobacco possession or use.

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On July 12, 2011 the Ohio Board of Education voted in favor of the 100% tobacco-free schools policy. The Ohio Department of Health and its partners support efforts to adopt comprehensive tobacco-free policies in Ohio's schools.

**RATIONALE:** *The Ann Jerkins Harris Academy of Excellence Governing Authority has a duty to protect and promote the health and well-being of all students and staff members. The Board is acutely aware of the serious health risks associated with the use of tobacco products, both to the users and non-users. The AJHAE Board recognizes that district personnel and school visitors serve as role models to students and, therefore, adopts this 100% Tobacco-Free School Policy to endorse a healthy lifestyle and prevent tobacco use.*

**DEFINITION:** For the purpose of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include any lighted or unlighted tobacco-based product including spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, and snuff, in any form. The term "tobacco products" includes: e-cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), and other electronic devices.

### BENEFITS OF 100% TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICY

1. **Provides positive role-modeling:** Many students get the message "Do what I say, not what I do" when a school district has a tobacco policy that excludes teachers and visitors. By state law smoking is NOT permitted inside school buildings. Teachers and school personnel are role models for students starting at a very young age. Adopting a 100% Comprehensive Tobacco-Free School District Policy provides for positive role modeling by not allowing any tobacco products on school grounds.
2. **Reduces exposure to secondhand smoke:** Many times students are exposed to secondhand smoke due to individuals smoking outside of school entrances. This exposure can trigger asthma attacks and is also known to cause cancer. Reducing the exposure to secondhand smoke for students, staff and visitors is an important benefit for adopting a 100% Tobacco-Free School Policy.
3. **Prepares students for smoke-free workplaces and tobacco-free college campuses:** Students are being prepared for the world as they head off to school every day (from kindergarten until they graduate). Having at AJHAE a 100% Comprehensive Tobacco-Free School will help prepare them for their future.

## TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED AT AJHAE

No student, staff member, volunteer, or school visitor is permitted—at any time-- to smoke, inhale, dip, chew or use tobacco at any time (includes e-cigarettes), including non-school hours; in any building, facility or vehicle owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the Ann Jerkins Harris Academy of Excellence or its School District; or on the school grounds or athletic grounds; , or at any school-sponsored event off campus.

Additionally, no student is permitted to possess cigarettes, other tobacco products, papers used to roll cigarettes, lighters, or other paraphernalia at any time.

No staff member, volunteer, or visitor is permitted to smoke, dip, or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours in any building, facility or vehicle owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the Ann Jerkins Harris Academy of Excellence or its School District

- A. inside any building, facility or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the District; or
- B. on school grounds or athletic facilities, except within the designated tobacco use areas as defined in this policy.

1) "Smoke" means to burn any substance containing tobacco, including a lighted cigarette, cigar, or pipe, or to burn a clove cigarette.

2) "Use tobacco" means to chew or maintain any substance containing tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, in the mouth to derive the effects of tobacco.

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## TOBACCO PROMOTION PROHIBITED

- Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school grounds, in all school-sponsored publications and at all school-sponsored events.
- Tobacco promotional items that promote the use of tobacco products, including clothing, bags, lighters, and other personal articles, are not permitted on school grounds, in school vehicles or at school-sponsored events.

## PROVIDING NOTICE

"No Tobacco" signs or the international "No Smoking" symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it) will be conspicuously posted throughout the school District facilities at entrances and other areas the administration finds appropriate and necessary. All signs shall have the toll-free enforcement number (1-866-559-OHIO (6446)) for reporting any violations.



## ENFORCEMENT

- Students who violate this policy will be disciplined according to regulations to be established by the school administration. Verbal and written warnings to more severe consequences will be set in place by school administration.
- Staff members who violate this policy will be disciplined according to contract agreement.
- Persons, other than staff or students, failing to comply with this policy are to be educated as to State law and the Board's policy on tobacco use.
- Persons, other than staff or students, refusing to abide by the Board's policy will be directed to leave school property and may be fined by the Ohio Department of Health or it's designees.
- **Announcements may be made during school parents and/or athletic events both before the event and during the intermission, as well as at all school functions where deemed appropriate. School programs may include a written reminder of the "No Tobacco" use inside the AJHAE school property.**
- Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of the District Administration.

## VIOLATIONS

- A violation of this policy by a student may result in disciplinary action (which may include suspension and/or expulsion).
  - The following disciplinary actions shall be taken against students found in violation of this policy:

▪ 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Orientation / Parent Notification
▪ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	3-day in-school suspension
▪ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	5-day in-school suspension
▪ Subsequent violation	Recommendation for expulsion
- A violation of this policy by an employee may result in disciplinary action (which may include termination of employment), and referral for prosecution.
- A violation of this policy by a visitor:
  - Verbal notification of the school policy.
  - Removal from property or school activity.

## EDUCATIONAL REINFORCEMENT

Tobacco-use prevention education should be closely coordinated with the other components of the school health program. Staff responsible for teaching tobacco-use prevention education should have adequate pre-service training and participate in ongoing professional development activities to effectively deliver education programming.

Preparation and professional development activities should provide basic knowledge about the effects of tobacco use and effects of peer pressure on tobacco use combined with skill practice in effective instructional techniques and strategies and program-specific activities.