

## **CRCS TOBACCO - FREE SCHOOL POLICY**

The health hazards of tobacco use have been well established. Tobacco is the number one killer and leading cause of preventable death in Maine. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for all of our students, staff and visitors, the CRCS Board has established the following tobacco – free school policy. The policy stated is established to 1) reflect and emphasize the hazards of tobacco use; 2) be in compliance with state and federal laws; 3) protect the health and safety of all students, employees and general public; and 4) set a non-tobacco use example by adults.

### **POSSESSION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS:**

Possession of tobacco products by students on school property, in school vehicles and at school sponsored events at all times is prohibited.\_

### **USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

THE SCHOOL GROUNDS SHALL BE TOBACCO FREE 24 HOURS PER DAY, 365 DAYS PER YEAR.

The use of all tobacco products in school buildings, facilities, on school buses, during school sponsored, as well as non-school sponsored events and in personal vehicles on school property is prohibited. This includes all days when school is not in session and at all functions that take place on school grounds. This policy applies to all persons, including students, staff and the general public. Additionally, all students shall not use tobacco products within line of sight of school property. Faculty, staff and visitors should also be aware that tobacco odor on their person is an environmental irritant and can cause negative health effects for those they come in contact with.

### **ADVERTISING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS:**

Advertising of tobacco products is prohibited in school buildings, on school property, at school functions, and in all school publications. This includes, but is not limited to, clothing that advertises tobacco products.

### **COMMUNICATION OF POLICY:**

This policy will be referenced in both the employee manuals and student handbooks. Tobacco-Free signs will be posted at all entrances of the school buildings, school playgrounds and athletic fields. In addition, age appropriate education will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Health Curriculum and will include awareness of the school policy.

### **REGULATIONS REGARDING ENFORCEMENT: STUDENTS:**

Administrators in all buildings will be responsible for communicating the consequences of the tobacco policy to students. Consequences will also be included in the student handbook. Students will be made aware of the consequences of bringing tobacco onto school grounds. This policy will be strictly enforced.

**FACULTY AND STAFF:**

Faculty, staff and contracted employees are included in the provisions of the state law, which prohibits tobacco use on school property at all times. Staff members violating this policy will be subject to the disciplinary actions outlined in the employee manual.

**VISITORS AND PUBLIC:**

Visitors and members of the public must comply with the regulations set forth in this policy by the CRCS Board. The use of tobacco products on school property by visitors is prohibited at all times. This includes non-school hours and at all functions, athletic or otherwise, that take place on school property. All visitors shall be asked not to use tobacco products within line of sight of school property.

Groups renting school property, through signed agreement, agree to enforce this school policy.

Legal Reference: Title 22 MRSA 1578-B  
ME. PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use by Minors)

Adopted: 8/15/2012