

<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES</b>	<b>GBK</b>
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## **I. PURPOSE**

The Rhode Island General Assembly has determined that:

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States.<sup>1</sup>  
 Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of death in the United States.

Preventing the use of tobacco, tobacco products, and e-cigarettes in schools or at school related activities can reduce the frequency in which children are exposed to e-cigarettes, or directly or secondhand to tobacco smoke thereby improving health outcomes for students, staff and visitors. Preventing the use of these products will also reduce any detrimental effect on the health and safety of students, staff and visitors.

State law, R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-20.9-1 et seq., requires the Lincoln School District to develop policy and protocol to enforce the prohibition of tobacco product and ENDS usage by an individual utilizing any school facility.

## **II. ENABLING AUTHORITY**

For all the reasons stated above and in accordance with its authority under R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-9, the Lincoln School Committee hereby adopts the following policy prohibiting the use of tobacco, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and other ENDS products on all school facilities, property, and school related events in conformance with §23-20.9-1 *et seq.* and any other applicable state law or regulation.

## **III. POLICY**

### **A. Prohibition of the use and possession of tobacco products on school premises or events**

No person shall, at any time, use a tobacco product, including ENDS, in any school building, on any school grounds, at any athletic event or any school sponsored event or in any school bus or other vehicle used for school purposes.

A general exception to this prohibition shall apply for the use of nicotine products utilized pursuant to a medical prescription and/or part of a cessation program or such products utilized to demonstrate the harm of tobacco consumption.

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<sup>1</sup> R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-20.9-2(a).

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B. Enforcement

Enforcement of this policy shall be proportional to the nature and circumstances of the violation. If a staff member found to have violated this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with state law and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

C. Prohibition on Tobacco Advertisements

No one on behalf of the Lincoln Public Schools may solicit or accept any contributions, gifts or money from the tobacco industry to include, but not be limited to, donations, monies for sponsorships/scholarships, advertising, promotions, loans or support for equipment, uniforms and sports and/or training facilities. No one on behalf of the Lincoln Public Schools may solicit or accept curricula or other educational materials of any that are created by or with input from the tobacco industry.

**IV. DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOL**

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop a protocol and procedures to facilitate this policy.

Amended Policy Adopted:	July 23, 1993
Revised Policy First Reading:	May 18, 2015
Revised Policy Second Reading:	June 8, 2015
Revised Policy Adopted:	June 8, 2015
Revised Policy First Reading:	January 9, 2023
Revised Policy Second Reading:	February 13, 2023
Revised Policy Adopted:	February 13, 2023

***TOWN OF LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Lincoln, Rhode Island***