

PERSONNEL	G
USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES	GBK
	Page 1 of 2

~~USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES~~

~~Rationale:~~

~~The Lincoln Public Schools believes in the importance of a healthy school environment and supports efforts in every school to promote a healthy learning and working environment. Research has shown that the use of tobacco products and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke present substantial health risks. It is also well understood that tobacco use often begins in adolescence, may interfere with attendance an learning, and may be a gateway to the use of alcohol and other drugs.~~

~~The Smoking Restrictions in Schools Act (RIGL Chapter 23-20.9 and the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act (RIGL Chapter 23-20.10) prohibit tobacco product usage within any school facility.~~

~~Consistent with state law, it is the policy of the Lincoln Public Schools that the usage of tobacco products is prohibited inside school buildings, on school buses or any other vehicle transporting students, in parking lots, on athletic fields or any other areas designed as school property (owned, rented or leased). The policy includes school events held on and off school property and nonschool events held on school property, 24 hours a day/seven days a week and pertains to all employees, students, and visitors.~~

~~“Tobacco product(s)” means any product containing and made of, or derived from, tobacco, or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, pipe tobacco, spitting tobacco, snus, electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, or other similar products that rely on vaporization or aerosolization, or bid cigarettes, and whose use is smoking, sniffing, chewing, vaporizing, inhaling, absorbing, dissolving, spitting or ingestion.~~

~~It shall not be a violation of this policy to use tobacco products in accordance with the express instructions of a teacher in the course of a legitimate classroom demonstration to show the health hazards of tobacco use.~~

~~Enforcement~~

~~Students: All students violating this policy will be subject to consequences as described in the school’s Student Handbook.~~

~~Staff Members: Staff members who violate this policy shall be subject to progressive discipline.~~

PERSONNEL	G
USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES	GBK
	Page 2 of 2

I. PURPOSE

The Rhode Island General Assembly has determined that:

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States.¹
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.

B. Enforcement

¹ R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-20.9-2(a).

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.

~~Visitors: Visitors in violation of this policy will be informed of the policy and asked to refrain from using tobacco products in compliance with the policy. If the individual fails to comply with the request, the visitor will be asked to leave school property.~~

~~Promulgation~~

~~This policy shall be posted on the District's website (www.lincolnpns.org).~~

~~Summaries of the policy shall be included in the annual Student Handbook for student and parent reference.~~

~~Information for staff will provided through their collective bargaining agreement.~~

~~All school areas where tobacco product usage is prohibited shall be clearly marked with "non-smoking area" signage as described in RIGL Chapter 23-20.9.~~

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
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<u>Revised Policy Second Reading:</u>	
<u>Revised Policy Adopted:</u>	

TOWN OF LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Lincoln, Rhode Island