

Tobacco Policy

RATIONALE The Ichabod Crane CSD recognizes its responsibility to promote the health, welfare and safety of students, staff and others on school property and at school-sponsored activities. Research consistently indicates that:

- Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States;
- Regular use of tobacco is ultimately harmful to every user's health, directly contributing to cancer, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse pregnancy outcomes, and premature death;
- Second-hand smoke is a threat to the personal health of everyone, especially persons with asthma and other respiratory problems;
- Nicotine is a powerfully addictive substance;
- Tobacco use most often begins during childhood or adolescence;
- The younger a person starts using tobacco, the more likely he or she will be a heavy user as an adult;
- Many young tobacco users will die an early, preventable death because of their decision to use tobacco.
- Use of tobacco interferes with students' attendance and learning;

In addition to health related concerns regarding tobacco use, smoking is a fire safety issue. Prevention programs in schools are most effective when supplemented by strong tobacco-free policies and when they are a part of broader school, community, and state efforts to reduce youth smoking. In light of this information, and to be consistent with school curriculum and federal and state law, it is the intent of the Ichabod Crane CSD to establish and maintain a tobacco-free environment.

DEFINITIONS

Tobacco: means any cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product; as well as spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, and snuff, and any other spit tobacco product in any form.

School Property: means any building, structure or vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the Ichabod Crane CSD.

School Grounds: means property surrounding buildings and structures, athletic grounds, parking lots, or any other outdoor property owned, leased, or contracted by the Ichabod Crane CSD.

TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED: No person is permitted to use tobacco in any way at any time, including during non-school hours, on school property, grounds or at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus.

TOBACCO EDUCATION Instruction to discourage the misuse of tobacco shall be included in the health education provided for all pupils. This tobacco education instruction shall be taught by the classroom teacher or by teachers certified to teach health education.

TOBACCO POSSESSION: No student is permitted to possess tobacco on school property, grounds, or at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus.

TOBACCO DISTRIBUTION: Distribution or sale of tobacco, including any smoking device is prohibited on school property, grounds, and at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus.

TOBACCO PROMOTION: Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school property, grounds, at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus, and in all school-sponsored publications. Students are prohibited from wearing or having in their possession tobacco promotional items, including clothing, bags, lighters, and other personal articles on school property, grounds, or at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus.

TOBACCO CESSATION: Referrals and access to community resources and programs to help students and staff overcome tobacco addiction shall be provided to staff and students as may be available. School counselors, health services, or community agencies are encouraged to establish voluntary tobacco-use cessation programs at school.

NOTICE SIGNS communicating this policy shall be prominently posted and properly maintained where tobacco use and smoking are regulated by this policy, including building entrances and grounds. Signs shall include “No Smoking” or the international “No Smoking” symbol, which consists of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a circle with a bar across it.

ENFORCEMENT: Student violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school. A referral to the Columbia County Health Department will follow any tobacco use violation as such use violates Public Health Law. Student participation in a tobacco cessation program and/or tobacco education class may be allowed. Parents will be notified of violations involving their child and subsequent action taken by the school.

Violations by others will result in appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the Superintendent or Board of Education.

This policy shall be in force at all times.

Legal References:

NYS Education Law, Article 9, Section 409. School building regulations in relation to health and safety.

NYS Education Law, Article 17, Section 804. Health education regarding alcohol, drugs, tobacco abuse and the prevention and detection of certain cancers.

NYS Department of Education, Commissioner’s Regulations, Subchapter G, Part 135. Health, Physical Education and Recreation

NYS Public Health Law, Article 13-E, Section 1399. Regulation of smoking in certain public areas (Clean Indoor Air Act)

U. S. Department of Education—No Child Left Behind, Title IV C, Sections 4301 – 4304, Part A. Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

Effective: August 5, 2008