



TOBACCO USE AND POSSESSION

“Tobacco use, particularly smoking, remains the number one cause of preventable disease and death in the United States.” (Quoted from “The Report of the Surgeon General, 2000”)

In order to promote the health, welfare and safety of all Regional School Unit-24 (RSU) students, staff and visitors, as well as to promote the cleanliness of RSU facilities, the RSU Board (RSUB) prohibits smoking and/or the use of any and all tobacco products in/on any RSU facility and/or grounds. The RSUB further prohibits employees from using any tobacco product(s) within view of students entering or leaving any RSU facility, vehicle and/or grounds.

RSU facility and grounds includes all tracks and fields, school busses/vehicles, any RSU sponsored function regardless of it’s location and **all** vehicles on any RSU property, at all times by all persons, including students, employees, and visitors.

Students are further prohibited from possessing, selling, distributing or dispensing tobacco products in/on any RSU facility or grounds

Employees and all other persons are also strictly prohibited, by state law and RSU Policy, from selling, distributing or in any way dispensing tobacco products to any student(s).

Employees and students are prohibited from wearing and/or displaying any type of tobacco or tobacco-related promotional materials. Employees are prohibited from having any tobacco products or devices (pipes, holders, etc.) in view at any time on any RSU facility, vehicle and/or grounds.

VIOLATIONS

- A. Employees and visitors who violate this policy shall be directed to immediately cease the violative behavior.
- B. Employees shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures.
- C. Visitors who do not cease the violative behavior will be directed to leave, and the Building Administrator/designee will seek the assistance of law enforcement as/if necessary.
- D. Any person (including students) over 18 years of age suspected of selling, distributing or in any way dispensing tobacco products to a student under 18 years of age shall be referred to a law enforcement agency.
- E. Student violations are covered under RSU Policy JICG – Tobacco use by Students

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy will be printed in Employee handbooks and posted on the RSU #24 website. Signs will be posted at all entrances of RSU school buildings, playgrounds and athletic fields.

Cross References: JICG – Tobacco Use by Students,
 GBED – Tobacco-Free Workplace
Legal References: 22 MRSA §1578-B
 ME. PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use By Minors)
 20 USC 6081 (Pro-Children Act of 1994—Goals 2000)
 ME. PL Chapter 156 - Eff. Sept 20, 2007

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