

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18

File: ADC

TOBACCO USE AND POSSESSION

Regional School Unit No. 18 does not allow the use of tobacco products in school buildings, on school grounds or in school vehicles at any time by students, staff or visitors. Advertising tobacco products by students and school employees is strictly prohibited on school property including articles of clothing. The Tobacco-Free School Policy will be referenced, and corresponding disciplinary actions for infractions of this policy shall be printed in employee and student handbooks. Tobacco-Free signs will be posted on school grounds.

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

“Tobacco product” is defined as any form of tobacco and any material or device used in smoking, chewing or other form of tobacco consumption, including but not limited to, cigarette papers, pipes, lighters and matches, or any object giving off or containing any substance giving off smoke. “Use” shall mean lighting, chewing, inhaling or smoking any tobacco product.

I. VISITOR USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Visitors to Messalonskee Schools (RSU No. 18) must comply with the policies and rules set forth by the School Board.

Smoking or the use of tobacco products by visitors is prohibited at all times in school buildings, on school grounds or in school vehicles. In addition, visitors are prohibited from selling, distributing or in any way dispensing tobacco products to students. This policy also applies to all outside organizations using school property.

Any person found smoking or using tobacco products will be asked to refrain from smoking or tobacco use while on school property and will be informed of the school’s Tobacco-Free Policy. If the visitor does not comply, he/she will be asked to leave. If he/she refuses to leave, the police department may be called. In addition, any person suspected of selling, distributing, or in any way dispensing tobacco products to students shall be referred to an appropriate school official.

II. STUDENT USE, POSSESSION, SALE, DISTRIBUTION OR DISPENSING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Students are prohibited from using, possessing, selling, distributing or dispensing tobacco products on school property, in school vehicles, or at any school-sponsored activity, whether on or off school grounds. Administrators may confiscate any article described in this policy and, if appropriate, shall submit it to a suitable law enforcement agency. The Board intends that this policy will deter students from the use of tobacco products and will encourage students using such products to make an earnest attempt to quit.

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A. Disciplinary Procedure

The following procedure is intended as a guideline. The administration reserves the discretion to impose consequences up to and including a recommendation for expulsion for violations of this policy.

1. 1st Offense
 - A. The equivalent of four hours of detention.
 - B. The student will meet with the guidance counselor to discuss and be referred to the appropriate tobacco education program and/or interventions.
 - C. The student will be reported to law enforcement, and the student's parents will be contacted.
 - D. The building principal, athletic director, and extracurricular/co-curricular leader will be notified.
2. 2nd Offense and Subsequent Offenses
 - A. The equivalent of eight hours of detention.
 - B. The student will meet with the guidance counselor to discuss and be referred to the appropriate tobacco education program and/or interventions.
 - C. The student will be reported to law enforcement, and the student's parents will be contacted.
 - D. The building principal, athletic director, and extracurricular/co-curricular leader will be notified.
 - E. The student may be referred to the Superintendent for further disciplinary action.

III. USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY STUDENTS INVOLVED IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students involved in extracurricular (athletics) and co-curricular activities (all school-sponsored clubs, teams, or organizations) represent the Messalonskee School District in their respective sport or school-sponsored activity. This privilege carries with it the responsibility of not using, possessing, selling, distributing or dispensing tobacco products on and off school grounds, whether or not under school supervision from date of pre-season practice in August through final tournament or co-curricular event in June.

Upon verification of an incident, students involved in extracurricular or co-curricular activities shall be subject to the following disciplinary consequences in addition to consequences for the underlying policy violation.

1. Suspension of students from all extracurricular and co-curricular activities for nine (9) weeks unless the student participates in a tobacco education program approved by the administration in which case the student will be suspended from activities for four weeks. For the purposes of this policy, participation in an activity begins with the first day of participation in any meeting, practice, try-out, pre-season activity, contest or performance and continues through any concluding activity such as an awards recognition event. If a suspension is not completed by the end of a school year, it carries over to the next school year.

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2. During suspension the student cannot participate in any awards ceremony; receive a certificate of participation, “letter”, or any other extracurricular/co-curricular awards; or continue to hold any leadership role and/or elected office during suspension.
3. Any subsequent violation of this policy, and the student will be removed from all extracurricular and/or co-curricular activity for one calendar year from the date of verification of the incident.

IV. EMPLOYEE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Smoking and the use of tobacco products by school employees are prohibited in school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles, and at any time or place that staff members are responsible for students. In addition, employees are prohibited from selling, distributing or dispensing tobacco products to students.

1. Employees shall be disciplined for any violation of this policy (in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining contract).

Legal References: Title 22 MRSA, Section 1578-B
Title 22 MRSA, Section 1555-B
Pro Children Act of 2001, 20 USC § 4301 et. seq.
Me. PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use by Minors)
Title 22, MRSA, Section 1580-A

Cross References: GBEC: Drug Free Workplace
JIC: Systemwide Student Code of Conduct
JICA: Student Dress
JICH: Drug and Alcohol Use by Students - Student Substance Abuse Discipline
JIH: Questioning and Searches of Students
JKD: Student Detention/Suspension
JKE: Expulsion of Students

Date of Adoption: August 5, 2009
Date of Revision: July 21, 2010

Policies/RSU No. 18 Policies/A – Foundations and Basic Commitments/ADC – Tobacco Use & Possession