

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICY

1. Statement of Purpose:

The Hull Public School Committee is committed to providing a tobacco-free environment for the health and well being of the entire school community – students, staff, and visitors to its facilities. Education about the consequences of tobacco use is an integral part of the Hull Public Schools Health Curriculum. The use of tobacco products has a direct link to numerous health problems. Tobacco prevention and education play critical roles in establishing life-long, positive health habits. The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirements of the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Sections 2A and 37H. It is the intention of the Hull Public School Committee to prohibit the use or distribution of tobacco products at all times whether or not school is in session within school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses or in other school vehicles, and at all school-sponsored functions in order to improve the health of students, all school personnel and visitors.

2. Definitions:

School: Public primary, middle, and secondary schools located in Hull.

School Grounds: Property owned or controlled by the Hull Public Schools, including but not limited to school buildings, structures, open space, sports or recreational facilities whether enclosed or not, vehicles owned or leased for the purpose of transporting students, school driveways, and school parking lots (including those lots or areas of land used for school related parking which may be owned or regulated by the Town of Hull or others and adjacent to school property). School grounds shall not mean any university property, college property or adult education facility except during the time that these areas house public primary, middle, or secondary school programs.

School Personnel: A person who performs services for a public school in Hull, including but not limited to principals, assistant principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, school counselors, coaches, assistant coaches, school nurses and therapists, cafeteria workers, administrative staff, janitorial staff, volunteers, tutors, consultants, substitutes, interns, security guards.

School-sponsored Activity: An activity at least partially funded or controlled by a school in Hull or a parent-teacher organization to which students are invited and which occurs on or off school grounds, such as, but not limited to, graduation, sporting events, work internships, job shadowing, dances, field trips or class picnic, etc.

Student: A person enrolled at any primary, middle or secondary school in Hull.

Tobacco products: Cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, bidis, snuff or tobacco in any of its forms or any product containing tobacco.

Tobacco paraphernalia: Shall include, but is not limited to products or materials of any kind which are intended or designed for producing, processing or using tobacco products, including rolling papers and lighters.

Tobacco cessation: An intervention program applied to treat tobacco addiction.

Tobacco Use: The inhaling, exhaling or consuming of any lit or unlit tobacco product or carrying of any lit tobacco product; also, the possession by a student on school grounds of a tobacco product.

Visitor: Any person on school grounds who is not a student or staff member. Examples include repair or delivery personnel, security personnel, presenters, consultants, students or staff from other schools, parents, outside facility users.

3. Tobacco Product Use Prohibited: No student, school personnel or visitor shall use a tobacco product at any time while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity as defined herein.

4. Training: The Principal of each school shall provide information and training of all school employees regarding the implementation of this policy. Employees will be required to acknowledge receipt of the Tobacco-free Workplace Agreement (attached). Parents and students shall be notified each year of the provisions of this policy through publication in the student handbook.

5. Violations:

The following is the policy to be followed regarding violations of this policy. In appropriate circumstances, additional sanctions or remedies may be used. Nothing contained herein shall operate to limit the authority of any person or the sanctions that may otherwise be imposed by law for violating this policy or the law.

Students

All drug and alcohol offenses are cumulative. All school and non-school related offenses are cumulative and carry over from year to year.

The student may also be required to participate in a drug/alcohol awareness program.

Drug and Alcohol: School Related

The use of alcohol and/or drugs, including steroids in or out of the season as well as in or out of school, is illegal and a serious offense. Drugs are defined as a controlled substance as defined in Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and prescription medicine without a valid prescription. Students may not carry any prescription medication with them while at school. Being in possession of any prescription medication at school (excluding an inhaler) will be considered a violation of the Hull High School Chemical Health policy.

A student who has been found in violation of the Hull High School Drug and Alcohol Policy in or before school at a school-related activity is subject to suspension, exclusion or expulsion by the principal and will be unable to participate in co-curricular activities, including sports. In addition to any academic consequences dictated by the Hull High School Code of Conduct, students facing school-related drug or alcohol offenses will also face the co-curricular and social consequences delineated below. All co-curricular suspensions and social probations begin at the conclusion of the suspension or exclusion.

In addition, members of the National Honor Society found to be in violation of any portion of the Chemical Health Policy, will be referred immediately to the faculty Council. The Faculty Council may remove any member who fails to uphold the school's Chemical Health Policy.

Any students found to be in violation of this policy shall be referred to the building Principal or Assistant Principal. The violations shall include:

Co-Curricular and Social Consequences for Chemical Health Violations

<u>Chemical Health Policy</u>	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
Co-Curricular and Social Consequences	14 consecutive calendar days of co-curricular suspension	28 consecutive calendar days of co-curricular suspension	A co-curricular suspension lasting the remainder of the school year
	14 consecutive calendar days of social probation	28 consecutive calendar days of social probation	A social probation lasting the remainder of the school year
	*Any MIAA suspension, which goes above and beyond the consequence provided by Hull High School	* Any MIAA suspension, which goes above and beyond the consequence provided by Hull High School	* Any MIAA suspension, which goes above and beyond the consequence provided by Hull High School

Drugs and Alcohol: Non-School Related

Documented and verified non-school related drug and alcohol violations including transporting, possessing, consuming, or distributing, will result in a mandatory co-curricular suspension and social probation. In addition, student-athletes will also be subject to consequences delineated in the MIAA chemical health policies (see Athletic Code).

All Tobacco Products

Smoking, chewing tobacco, or use of nicotine delivery systems by Hull High School participation in co-curricular activities, including athletics, in or out of season, as well as in or out of school, is a violation. The user and/or possession of tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, has been proven to be detrimental to a student's health and performance.

According to Chapter 71, Section 37H of the MGL, the School Committee prohibits the use of any tobacco products within the school buildings, the school facilities, or on school grounds, or on school buses by any individual, including school personnel. In addition, Chapter 71, Section 2A, states that it is unlawful for any student, enrolled in either primary or secondary schools in the Commonwealth, to use tobacco products of any type on school grounds during school hours.

If a student is found to be in possession of a tobacco product or nicotine delivery system while

on school grounds or while at a school-related event, the tobacco product will be confiscated, parents will be notified and the student will receive a one-day co-curricular suspension. Subsequent offenses will result in confiscation of the tobacco product, a one-day suspension from school and a co-curricular suspension of 15 calendar days.

If a student is found to have used a tobacco product while on school grounds or while at a school-related event, the tobacco product will be confiscated and the student will receive a one-day suspension from school and a 15 calendar day co-curricular suspension. Subsequent offenses will result in a minimum 2 day suspension from school and 15 consecutive days of social probation and co-curricular suspension.

Employees

First Offense

- A verbal warning will be issued by the Principal or Assistant Principal. The administrator will note that this reprimand has taken place, documenting the date and time.

Second Offense

- A written warning will be issued by the Principal or Assistant Principal with a copy of the written warning being placed in the employee's personnel file. Said warning shall include the notice of available smoking cessation/tobacco prevention education counseling programs

Third Offense

- Non-criminal method of disposition (fine), \$25, or as may be provided in the Town's By-laws, with a notation of the violation placed in the employee's personnel file.

Subsequent Offenses

- Each additional offense (after the fine) will result in a one (1) day suspension and loss of a day's pay. Infractions are accumulative each school year.

Visitors

Announcers at all events will remind the public that the Hull Public Schools is a tobacco-free environment and that schools are required by law to keep school premises tobacco free. Visitors, who are observed smoking or using tobacco products on school property, shall be referred to a school administrator, a site administrator or a Hull Police Officer. The penalties for violations shall include:

First Offense

- Shall be asked to refrain from smoking and the use of tobacco products while on school property.

Second Offense (or if the individual(s) fails to adhere to a warning)

- Shall be asked to leave school grounds

Third Offense

If the individual fails to comply with the request, it may be deemed necessary to call upon the Hull Police Department or other departments of the Town to enforce this policy which may included criminal process, non-criminal disposition or civil action. The school administrator will have the option of issuing a non-criminal ticket for school tobacco regulation violation.

6. Severability:

If any provision of this regulation is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby, but shall continue in full force and effect.

7. Conflict with Other Policies, Laws or Regulations:

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, nothing in this policy shall be deemed to amend or repeal applicable fire, health or other laws or regulations so as to permit smoking in areas where it is prohibited by such fire, health or other laws or regulations.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:2A

M.G.L. 71:37H

CROSS REF: JICG and KF

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