

419 TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT; POSSESSION AND USE OF TOBACCO, TOBACCO-RELATED DEVICES, AND ELECTRONIC DELIVERY DEVICES; VAPING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION INSTRUCTION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is tobacco free.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel of Minnesota Transitions Charter School (MTCS), or person smokes or uses tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic cigarettes in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that MTCS owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls. In addition, this prohibition includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for work purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all MTCS property and all off-campus events sponsored by MTCS.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any elementary school, middle school, or secondary school student possesses any type of tobacco, tobacco-related device, or electronic cigarette in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that MTCS owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls and includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for school purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all MTCS property and all off-campus events sponsored by MTCS.
- C. MTCS will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school personnel, or person who is found to have violated this policy.
- D. MTCS will not solicit or accept any contributions or gifts of money, curricula, materials, or equipment from companies that directly manufacture and are identified with tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices. MTCS will not promote or allow promotion of tobacco products or electronic delivery devices on school property or at school-sponsored events.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Electronic cigarette” means any oral device that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine, lobelia, and/or other similar substance, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such devices, whether they are manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, or under another product name or descriptor. Electronic delivery devices include any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately. Electronic delivery device excludes drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.
- B. “Heated tobacco product” means a tobacco product that produces aerosols containing nicotine and other chemicals which are inhaled by users through the mouth.
- C. “Tobacco” means cigarettes and any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product; cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Tobacco excludes any drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.
- D. “Tobacco-related devices” means cigarette papers or pipes for smoking or other devices intentionally designed or intended to be used in a manner which enables the chewing, sniffing, smoking, or inhalation of vapors aerosol or vapor of tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco-related devices include components of tobacco-related devices which may be marketed or sold separately.
- E. “Smoking” means inhaling or exhaling smoke from any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted tobacco or plant product. Smoking also includes carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation and the use of electronic cigarettes, including the inhaling and exhaling of vapor from any electronic delivery device.
- F. “Vaping” means using an activated electronic delivery device or heated tobacco product.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

- A. A violation of this policy does not occur when an Indian adult lights tobacco on MTCS property as a part of a traditional Indian spiritual or cultural ceremony. An American Indian Student may carry a medicine pouch containing loose tobacco intended as observance of traditional spiritual or cultural practices. An Indian is a person who is a member of an Indian tribe as defined under Minnesota law.
- B. A violation of this policy does not occur when an adult nonstudent possesses a tobacco or nicotine product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

V. VAPING PREVENTION INSTRUCTION

- A. MTCS must provide vaping prevention instruction at least once to students in grades 6 through 8.
- B. MTCS may use instructional materials based upon the Minnesota Department of Health's school e-cigarette toolkit or may use other smoking prevention instructional materials with a focus on vaping and the use of electronic delivery devices and heated tobacco products. The instruction may be provided as part of MTCS's locally developed health standards.
- C. An American Indian student or staff member may use tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar to conduct individual or group smudging in a public school. The process for conducting smudging is determined by the building or site administrator. Smudging must be conducted under the direct supervision of an appropriate staff member, as determined by the building or site administrator.

VI. ENFORCEMENT

- A. All individuals on MTCS premises shall adhere to this policy.
- B. Students who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to MTCS discipline procedures.
- C. MTCS administrators and other MTCS personnel who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to MTCS discipline procedures.
- D. MTCS action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of Minnesota or federal law, and MTCS policies.
- E. Persons who violate this tobacco-free policy may be referred to the building administration or other MTCS supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program at which the violation occurred.

- F. MTCS administrators may call the local law enforcement agency to assist with enforcement of this policy. Smoking or use of any tobacco product in a public school is a violation of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and/or the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 and is a petty misdemeanor. A court injunction may be instituted against a repeated violator.
- G. No persons shall be discharged, refused to be hired, penalized, discriminated against, or in any manner retaliated against for exercising any right to a smoke-free environment provided by the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 or other law.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- B. MTCS will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.238 (Vaping Awareness and Prevention)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.08 (Smudging Permitted)
Minn. Stat. §§ 144.411-144.417 (Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act)
Minn. Stat. § 609.685 (Sale of Tobacco to Children)
2007 Minn. Laws Ch. 82 (Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007)

Cross References: MTCS Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
MTCS Policy 506 (Student Discipline)