



## **POLICY 5060: TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA (SBBC) RECOGNIZES THAT THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS A HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD FOR STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, PARENTS, VISITORS, SCHOOL FACILITIES, SCHOOL GROUNDS, ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES, AND OTHER FACILITIES. SBBC BELIEVES THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN SCHOOL FACILITIES, ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, IN ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES, IN OTHER FACILITIES, AND IN AND ON SBBC PROPERTY IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND VISITORS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY IS TO ESTABLISH THAT SBBC MAINTAINS A TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO PROVIDE NOTIFICATION TO STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND TO THE PUBLIC.

### **I. Applicability of Policy**

This policy applies to students, employees, volunteers, parents, spectators, visitors, and any party contracting with SBBC.

### **II. Definitions**

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

- A. **“At any time”** means during normal school and non-school hours: t w e n t y - f o u r ( 24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, and three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year.
- B. **“Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)”** (also called **“electronic cigarettes,” “e-cigarettes,” “vaping devices,” or “vape pens”**) means battery-powered devices used to smoke or “vape” a flavored or unflavored solution which usually contains nicotine.
- C. **“Electronic cigarette (e-cigarette)”** means any oral device that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine, lobelia, and/or other 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 any other product name or descriptor.
- D. **“Tobacco product”** means any lighted or unlighted cigarettes, ENDS, e-cigarettes, cigars, clove cigarettes, blunts, bidis, pipes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other product containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.
- E. **“NRT (nicotine replacement therapy) products”** means the FDA-approved prescribed and/or over the counter (OTC) nicotine products used solely for tobacco cessation to ease nicotine withdrawal symptoms so that the cessation client can make the behavioral changes necessary to become tobacco free. Use of NRT products by students must be in compliance with all SBBC Policies, including, but not limited to SBBC Policy 6305 Administration of Medication/Treatments.
- F. **“SBBC property”** means in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any school facility, school grounds, administrative facility, other facility, real property, or vehicle, that is owned, leased, licensed, chartered, contracted, or rented by SBBC. A facility includes, but is not limited to, all or any portion of a building, structure, site, equipment, road, walk, passageway, parking lot, conveyance, other real or

personal property, or interests in such property. Vehicles, whether electric, motorized, or non-motorized, include, but is not limited to, carts, cars, trucks, vans, buses, and school buses, or other means of transportation that is operated by SBBC. SBBC property does not include school bus stops located away from SBBC property.

### **III. Policy Statement**

- A. No student, employee, volunteer, school visitor, or any party contracting with SBBC is permitted to use tobacco products of any kind at any time in or on any school facility, school grounds, administrative facility, other facility, real property, or vehicle, that is owned, leased, licensed, chartered, contracted, or rented by SBBC, including, but not limited to, schools, athletic/practice fields, playgrounds, parking lots, and administrative offices.
- B. This policy does not apply to school bus stops located away from SBBC property.
- C. All students must abide by the SBBC Policy 5.8 Code of Student Conduct as it relates to tobacco products for use, possession, sale and/or transmittal.

### **IV. Exceptions**

- A. A school principal or District administrator may permit tobacco products to be included in counseling, educational, instructional, or research activities in or on the school facility if the activity is conducted or supervised by an SBBC employee overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not involve smoking, chewing or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.
- B. Products related to NRT are permissible.

### **V. Notification of Policy and Implementation**

Appropriate signage will be posted on all SBBC property, in a manner and location that appropriately notifies students, employees, parents, visitors, any party contracting with SBBC, and the public of this policy.

### **VI. Tobacco Promotion Prohibited**

- A. Tobacco advertising is prohibited on SBBC property, in all SBBC (including, but not limited to school)-sponsored publications and at all SBBC (including, but not limited to school)-sponsored events.
- B. Tobacco promotional items that promote the use of tobacco products, including but not limited to, clothing, bags, lighters and other articles are not permitted on SBBC property or at SBBC (including, but not limited to school)-sponsored events.

### **VII. Educational and Cessation Programs**

- A. *Prevention Education for Students:* The District administration will consult with the Office of Student Services, and other appropriate health organizations to identify and provide programs or opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco use as it relates to providing a safe, orderly, clean and inviting school environment. The District administration will ensure students in grades K-12

have access to tobacco prevention education in health/health-related classes and/or prevention activities using sequential, age-appropriate, current, accurate, evidence-informed curricula and a skills-based approach (involving students in active “hands-on” learning experiences).

- B. *Cessation Support Programs*: The District administration will consult with the Office of Student Services, Employee Wellness in the Benefits Department, Florida Department of Health in Broward County, American Lung Association, and other appropriate health organizations to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems, tobacco use cessation programs, and services to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

## **VIII. Responsibility of School and District Administrators**

- A. Communicate this policy annually (at the beginning of each school year) to students, employees, family members, volunteers, visitors, and any party contracting with SBBC, at school events, through signage and school handbooks. The Office of Student Services and the Benefits Department, in collaboration with appropriate health organizations, will provide resources for use by District administrators.
- B. Treat violators of this policy, who are students or employees, with disciplinary actions consistent with SBBC policies.
- C. Ensure family members, volunteers or visitors who violate this policy discontinue using the tobacco product or leave SBBC property. Law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off SBBC property or cite the person for trespassing if the person refuses to leave the SBBC property.
- D. Include the expectation that the prohibition will be enforced in contracts with outside groups who use the school building and other facilities.

## **IX. Disciplinary Actions for Student or Employee Violators**

- A. *Students*: Students who engaging in behavior prohibited under this policy will be provided with interventions/consequences in accordance with SBBC Policy 5.8 Code of Student Conduct and SBBC Policy 5006 Suspension and Expulsions.
- B. *Employees*: Consequences for employees who violate this policy will be in accordance with personnel policies or any relevant collective bargaining agreement.
- C. *Visitors*: Visitors will be requested to discontinue use of tobacco products. If the visitor refuses to comply with the request to discontinue, the visitor will be escorted off SBBC property by security/law enforcement.

Policy Custodian: Equity, Diversity & School Climate

Former Policy Number: 2401

Policy Status: Active

Authority: Sections 1001, and 1001.41, Florida Statutes

Laws Implemented: Sections 386.209, and 386.212, Florida Statutes

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