

POLICY

Queen Anne's County Public Schools

POLICY TITLE: Tobacco-Free School Environment	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: Readopted: July 1, 1993 Revised: February 5, 2014	
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Foundations and Basic Commitment, Personnel Amendment:	

A. Purpose

To ensure a safe and smoke-free workplace for all employees.

B. Policy Statement

The sale or use of tobacco and products containing nicotine and nicotine replacement products in any form is prohibited in Board of Education owned or leased buildings or vehicles at all times. In addition, the sale or use of tobacco and nicotine replacement products in any form is prohibited on Board of Education grounds at all times.

This shall not include nicotine replacement therapy as allowed by this policy.

C. Rationale

The Queen Anne's County Board of Education recognizes that the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment is important to protect the health of staff, visitors, and parents and to provide an atmosphere free of substances that impede learning. In that regard, the Board supports the provision of Maryland State Board Bylaw (COMAR) 13A.02.04.

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D. Definitions

“Nicotine replacement therapy” - involves the use of products that provide low doses of nicotine but do not contain the toxins found in smoke. The goal of therapy is to relieve cravings for nicotine and ease the symptoms when someone stops using cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

Acceptable products for the QACPS are limited to gum, lozenges and skin patches. Other products may be considered if prescribed by a physician. No product whether prescribed or not will be allowed if its use disrupts the normal functioning of the schools, central office, warehouse, transportation of students or extra-curricular events/activities.

Nicotine replacement therapy excludes “e-cigarettes” or any product that looks like or mimics an actual cigarette whether prescribed by a physician or not.

“Electronic cigarette (or e-cigarette), electronic vaping device, personal vaporizer (PV), or electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS)” - a battery-powered device which simulates tobacco smoking. It generally uses a heating element that vaporizes a liquid solution. Some solutions contain a mixture of nicotine and flavourings, while others release a flavoured vapor without nicotine. Many are designed to simulate smoking implements, such as cigarettes or cigars, in their use and/or appearance, while others are considerably different in appearance.

E. Implementation Guidelines

1. All worksites within the jurisdiction of the Board are designated as smoke free workplaces. The sale and use of tobacco or nicotine replacement products in any form is prohibited in all school system owned or leased buildings at all times (24 hours a day, every day) and on all school grounds at all times (24 hours a day, every day). This includes schools, central office, warehouses, or other buildings belonging to the school system.
2. The sale and use of tobacco or nicotine replacement products in any form is prohibited at all times (24 hours a day, every day) in all school system-owned or leased vehicles, including school buses. The sale and use of tobacco or nicotine replacement products in any form is prohibited on contracted buses 30 minutes prior to the time a student boards the bus or when those vehicles are on school grounds or when carrying students to and from a school or school-sponsored activity.

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3. Compliance with the standards of conduct set forth in this policy is mandatory. Violations of this policy by any Board employee will result in disciplinary actions up to and including termination.

F. Evaluation

The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education a review of this policy in 2017. The focus of this review will be the effectiveness of the elements of this policy in assisting the Board in fulfilling its mission.

G. References

COMAR 13A.02.04