



## TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUSES FOR OHIO'S SCHOOLS

### *What should school personnel know about tobacco policies?*

**Why should school districts care?** Tobacco remains the number one cause of preventable death in Ohio. Most adult smokers began smoking in their teens. The tobacco industry continues to spend billions of dollars on marketing its products, and we have an uphill battle to prevent youth from starting. A tobacco-free school encourages the promotion of a safe, healthy and positive school climate and culture, and consequently supports student learning.

It is important for each school district to have a 100 percent tobacco-free school campus policy that prohibits *all* tobacco use on school property (indoors and outdoors); at *all* kindergarten through grade 12 school functions by students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Having such a policy reinforces educational messages about tobacco, promotes positive role models, and plays a big part in reducing student and staff tobacco use. In fact, a recent study revealed that 13 year-old girls were five times more likely to become daily smokers if their schools allowed staff to smoke outside the school.<sup>1</sup>

**Don't we already have a tobacco policy?** Although nearly all Ohio public school districts have policies banning indoor smoking, **a majority do not have policies prohibiting the use of all tobacco products extending to outdoors, sporting events and school-sponsored activities.** Currently, 130 Ohio school districts have adopted 100 percent tobacco-free school campus policies. There is strong public support for such policies: in 2006, an overwhelming majority (89 percent) of Ohioans agreed that adults should not be permitted to use tobacco on school grounds or at any school events.<sup>2</sup>

The Tobacco Public Policy Center (TPPC) is attempting to review all school district tobacco policies and has created a map to identify which school districts have 100 percent tobacco-free school campus policies. To see how your district is doing, visit <http://tobaccopolicy.org/> and click on Tobacco-Free Schools, under Youth and Tobacco in the left-side banner.

→ If your district's name appears in **green** on the map, congratulations. Your district's tobacco policy meets the requirements for a 100 percent tobacco-free school campus policy.

→ If your district's name is shown in **red**, the district unfortunately still lacks a 100 percent tobacco-free school campus policy.

→ If your district's name is shown in **purple**, its policy is not known.

#### **10 Reasons To Go 100% Tobacco-Free**

1. Provides positive role modeling.
2. Reinforces school-based tobacco prevention education.
3. Provides a safe, healthy, tobacco-free environment.
4. Protects students from developing addictions to dangerous drugs, both tobacco and other drugs that may follow.
5. Demonstrates to the taxpayers a pro-active stance in protecting child and employee health.
6. Ensures compliance with state laws that limit access to tobacco by minors.
7. Prepares students for the reality of tobacco-free workplaces and communities.
8. Protects your school from the risk of future liability.
9. Reduces the risk of fires due to smoking materials.
10. Reduces school maintenance and staff health-care costs.

To find out why your district name is in red on the map, or if your school district's policy is "unknown," please contact attorney Darren Nealy, assistant director of the TPPC at Capital University Law School, [tobacco@law.capital.edu](mailto:tobacco@law.capital.edu) or (614) 236-6770, or call toll-free: (866) 999-TPPC (8772).



### Additional Resources and FREE Tobacco-Free School Signs

**TPPC** – In addition to the map, the TPPC also has fact sheets and frequently asked questions (FAQs) on this issue and free signage for school campuses that have 100 percent tobacco-free school campus policies. Go to [www.tobaccopolicy.org](http://www.tobaccopolicy.org) for more information.

**The Tobacco-Free Schools Toolkit** – This comprehensive toolkit developed by the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation contains several resources to help school districts adopt, implement and enforce 100 percent tobacco-free school campus policies. It is available online at [www.otpf.org](http://www.otpf.org) or by calling (614) 644-1114.

**1-800-QUIT-NOW** – School staff who may want to quit using tobacco may call OhioQuits at this toll-free number or visit [www.ohioquits.com](http://www.ohioquits.com) to schedule free telephone, face-to-face or online coaching from trained, experienced “quit” specialists. Enrollees in an OhioQuits coaching program will be eligible for at least two weeks worth of free nicotine patches. OhioQuits is a program of the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation.

**Web sites for children regarding youth tobacco use** – <http://www.debunkify.org>;  
<http://www.standonline.org>; and <http://tobaccofreekids.org>

<sup>1</sup> Barnett, T.A., Gauvin, L., Lambert., M., O'Loughlin, J., Paradis., G., and McGrath, J.J. (2007) The Influence of School Smoking Policies on Student Tobacco Use, *Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine*, 161 (9), 842-848.

<sup>2</sup> Borawski, E.A., Trapl, E.S, Olds, R.S., Subhas., N. (2006). *Ohio Adult Tobacco Report: 2006 Adult Tobacco Survey*, Ohio Tobacco Research and Evaluation Center at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, [www.otrec.org](http://www.otrec.org).

**For more information or assistance on how to adopt, implement or enforce a 100 percent tobacco-free school campus policy, contact:**

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