



Tobacco Public Policy Center at Capital University Law School

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www.tobaccopolicy.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the criteria the Tobacco Public Policy Center uses for classification as a 100% tobacco-free school policy (also referred to as a 100% tobacco-free campus policy) on our map?

A: There are four main criteria.

- *Prohibition of **all tobacco use**.* A 100% tobacco-free school policy addresses not only cigarette, pipe or cigar smoking, but also prohibits other tobacco products such as smokeless tobacco.
- *Prohibition of tobacco use by **all persons**.* A comprehensive 100% tobacco-free campus policy must prohibit tobacco use by all persons, including students, visitors, parents, faculty, staff and guardians.
- *Prohibition of tobacco use in **all school district locations**.* Ohio's Smoke-Free Workplace Act prohibits smoking in indoor public places and places of employment, including schools. However, a 100% tobacco-free campus policy goes beyond the requirements of the state law and prohibits tobacco use on school grounds and in school vehicles.
- *Prohibition of tobacco use **without exceptions**.* A 100% tobacco-free campus policy does not make exceptions for tobacco use at designated times or in designated areas.

For additional ideas, refer to the Tobacco-Free Schools Model Policy available at www.tobaccopolicy.org.

Q: What should I do if I believe my district is incorrectly classified?

A: If you believe that your district’s policy qualifies as a 100% tobacco-free campus policy, or you have recently updated your district policy regarding tobacco use on school campuses, please let us know by contacting us at (614) 236-6770.

Q: How can I obtain free “Tobacco Free School” signs for my school district?

A: Your school district must adopt a 100% tobacco-free school policy. Then, you should mail a copy of your school district’s tobacco-free school policy to:

Tobacco Public Policy Center
303 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

You should also provide a list of the schools in your district and your district’s mailing or delivery address for receipt of the signs. In addition, you should specify the number of signs that your school district would like to receive. Signs will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to the limited number of signs available and our desire to provide signs to as many districts as possible, we may be unable to provide the full number of signs requested.

Q: Why is a 100% tobacco-free school policy necessary?

A: Recent studies show that the Ohio high school smoking rate is 25.7%, and the middle school rate is 10.1%. In addition, over 80% of adult smokers begin smoking by age 18. A 100% tobacco-free school policy...

- ...reduces health risks for students and staff (caused by tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure).
- ...assists students to resist future tobacco use and stop current tobacco use.
- ...promotes a healthy lifestyle and safe learning environment.
- ...presents students with healthy role modeling (and prevents the modeling of dangerous and self-destructive behavior).
- ...assists in enforcement of state law prohibiting tobacco use by minors.