

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Student Tobacco Use	Date Approved: July 18, 2000, July 20, 2004 February 21, 2006 March 17, 2009 August 19, 2014 Date Revised: June 15, 2004 February 17, 2009 August 19, 2014 Date Effective: July 18, 2000, July 20, 2004 February 21, 2006, March 17, 2009 August 19, 2014

1. PURPOSE

To establish a tobacco free school environment.

2. GUIDELINES

The Somerset County Board of Education recognizes the importance of providing a safe and healthy environment which ensures students' success and protects the health of staff, students, visitors and parents. Research has shown that the practice of smoking or the use of any tobacco product is detrimental to the health of the user and detrimental to the health of others.

A. Definition

- (1) Tobacco - This policy covers the use and/or possession of cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, cigarette/cigar packages, smokeless tobacco products or containers or other smoking paraphernalia. Also included is the possession with intent to sell, give or deliver tobacco or tobacco products. This does not include nicotine replacement therapy.
- (2) School Grounds - Students are not permitted to smoke or use smokeless tobacco products on school premises which includes all owned or leased land that surrounds school buildings and school busses. This includes any school sponsored activity.
- (3) A student suspected to be in possession of cigarettes, cigarette/cigar packages, smokeless tobacco products or containers or other smoking paraphernalia may be searched according to SCPS 600-40.

B. Penalties for use or Possession will be aligned with the County Tiers of Intervention and Disciplinary Matrix (see Administrative Procedures #600-17 AP).

- C. Parent/Student Conferences - Parent/student conferences shall be used to discuss the offense and provide information and counseling on the harmful effects of smoking as well as providing referral services to a student and their parents.
- D. Responsibility - The superintendent and principal of each school will be assigned the responsibility to inform all students, parents and the community-at-large of the contents and implementation of this policy.