

North Providence Public Schools Smoke Free Schools Policy	Approved: 1/22/2020 Updated: 11/20/2024

SECTION I. RATIONALE

State law mandates that students, parents, contractors, faculty, staff, administration, and all other visitors are to be smoke-free and tobacco-free on and around school grounds including places rented by a school or visited during a school function.

In the State of Rhode Island, the smoke-free schools law includes all Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) along with other tobacco products. ENDS tobacco products, also known as e-cigarettes, vapes, vaping devices, the brand name JUUL, Sourin, PHIX, Blu, etc. can neither be possessed nor used on North Providence School Department (“District”) property.

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS

School building - Any building or enclosed walkway that is used or leased by the District for educational purposes.

School grounds - All school buildings, parking lots, athletic fields, loading docks, and /or other school outdoor facilities, and other premises owned or leased by the school for educational purposes. District buses, District-identified bus stops, and buses, vans, or other vehicles owned or leased by the District, whether permanent or temporary, are included as “school grounds” for the purposes of this policy.

Smoking - “Smoking” or “smoke”, the inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying of any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe or other tobacco product or plant product intended for inhalation in any manner or any form. “Smoking” or “smoke” also includes the use of electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, or other similar products that rely on vaporization or aerosolization.

Tobacco paraphernalia - Any device used to aid, ingest, light, burn, or consume any tobacco product as defined herein, including but not limited to pipes, rolling papers, matches or any component or part of a tobacco product. Tobacco product Any product containing, made or

derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any 11 other means including, but not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, or electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, vape pens, electronic hookah, or other similar products, regardless of nicotine content, that rely on vaporization or aerosolization.

“Tobacco product” - *Tobacco product* means: (1) any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoke, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, little cigars or cigarillos, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, and snuff; and (2) any device that delivers nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, vaporizer or vape, pipe, or hookah. Notwithstanding any provision of clauses (1) and (2) in this definition to the contrary, tobacco product includes any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, whether or not sold separately; tobacco product does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where such product is marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

SECTION III. PROHIBITION

Use of tobacco product - No person(s) shall, at any time, use a tobacco product in any school building, on any school grounds, at any athletic event or any school sponsored event or in any school bus or other vehicle used for school purposes.

Possession of tobacco product or paraphernalia - No student shall at any time possess any tobacco product or tobacco paraphernalia or both in any school building, on any school grounds, at any athletic event or any school-sponsored event.

Confiscation - When there is evidence that a student is in possession of tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia, administrators or other designated staff may confiscate such items.

Fair and equitable implementation – This policy and penalties for violations of policy will be carried out fairly and equitably. Schools will maintain demographic records on students penalized under policy and conduct periodic review to look for inconsistencies in the types of students being caught and penalized as well as the severity of the punishment. Penalties shall be applied universally regardless of a student’s gender, race, age, ethnicity, primary language, academic standing, immigration status, employment status, family income, zip code, physical abilities, participation in student athletics, the arts, student government, etc.

Cumulative – Because ongoing use of tobacco products indicates addiction and may be triggered by social-emotional circumstances, it is important to intervene with responses that are aligned with student tobacco use at a point in time. For that reason, this policy will not reset at the beginning of each school year but, rather, will be cumulative throughout middle school with a reset upon entering high school at which point any penalties will be cumulative until graduation.

SECTION V. ENFORCEMENT AND DISCIPLINE

Students are subject to discipline as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. This policy shall be strictly enforced, in line with enforcement of any other infraction of the student handbook.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Rhode Island General Laws §§ 23-20.9-4 & 23-20.9-5

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