

VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

TITLE: Tobacco Free Campus

POLICY NUMBER: OP026

Policy Statement:

VSDB recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, employees, visitors, and agency facilities. VSDB believes that the use of tobacco products on campus, in buildings and facilities, on VSDB property or at VSDB-related or VSDB-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff and visitors.

In addition, VSDB acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students. VSDB recognizes it has an obligation to promote positive role models on campus and to promote a healthy learning and working environment, free from unwanted smoke and tobacco use, for students, employees, and visitors on its campus. As a result, VSDB maintains a “Tobacco-free campus”.

Definition of Tobacco Products and Tobacco Use

For the purposes of this policy, “tobacco product” is defined to include cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, nicotine vapor products (e.g. electronic cigarettes), alternative nicotine products and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. “Tobacco use” includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.

Procedure:

No student, staff member or school visitor is permitted to use any tobacco product at any time, including non-school hours (24/7):

- in any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the VSDB;
- on any VSDB grounds and property – including athletic fields and parking lots; or
- at any school-sponsored or school-related event on-campus or off-campus.

In addition, school division employees, school volunteers, contractors or other persons performing services on behalf of VSDB are prohibited from using tobacco products at any time while on duty and in the presence of students, either on or off school grounds.

Further, no student shall be permitted to possess a tobacco product while on VSDB grounds or property; or at any VSDB-sponsored or VSDB-related event, or at any other time that students are under the authority of VSDB personnel.

Tobacco products may be included in instructional or research activities in public school buildings, if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research project, and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

Staff and students who fail to comply will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who need assistance in smoking cessation may contact the Infirmary for support.

Rescission:

Effective Date: July 2004; Revised: November 2016

BOV Approved: March 23, 2017; Revised: Title change from Smoking/Tobacco Use
7/18/18