

SMOKE/TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT**I. Background**

Tobacco use has been identified as the number one health problem in the United States. It is the leading cause of premature death, disease, and chronic disability in our country.

Smoking is hazardous to health for both smokers and non-smokers. For smokers, it can contribute to heart attack, stroke, high blood pressure, emphysema, and several forms of cancer. Non-smokers can be affected by breathing the toxic products that tobacco smoke adds to the air and the risks of developing severe diseases such as lung cancer are increased. Smoking is the single largest preventable cause of mortality.

II. Purpose

The Lakes International Language Academy School Board is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive environment for staff, students, and citizens. The School Board believes that education has a central role in establishing patterns of behavior related to good health and shall take measures to help its students to resist tobacco use. Curriculum related to tobacco-use prevention will be part of the primary grade levels. The School Board is concerned about the health of its employees and also recognizes the importance of adult role modeling for students during formative years. Therefore, the School Board shall promote non-smoking among its employees.

III. Policy

- A. Smoking and use of tobacco products shall be prohibited at all district meetings and in all district-owned vehicles.
- B. Smoking and use of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all district buildings.
- C. Smoking and use of tobacco products shall be prohibited on district grounds.

IV. Enforcement

The success of this policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of both smokers and non-smokers. All individuals on school premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. An individual who observes a violation on school property may report it in accordance with the procedures listed below.

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- A. Students. Any tobacco use by students shall be referred to the Director and handled in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
- B. Staff. Any violation of this policy by staff shall be referred to the appropriate supervisor. Repeated violations could lead to further disciplinary action.
- C. Citizens. Citizens who are observed smoking or using tobacco products on school district property shall be asked to refrain from such use on school property. If the individual fails to comply with the request, his or her violation of this policy may be referred to the Director or other school district supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program during which the violation occurred. The supervisor shall make a decision on further action, which may include a directive to leave school property.

Violation of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, by smoking in a designated nonsmoking area, is a petty misdemeanor and a court injunction can be instituted against a repeated violator.

V. Communicate the Policy; General Guidelines

- A. Emphasize the educational, health, and economic benefits of the new policy.
- B. Be sensitive to the concerns of students, staff, and community members who use tobacco. Be aware of how difficult it can be to quit or cut down on tobacco-use. Offer support to those who want to quit.
- C. Avoid communicating in a way that sounds “preachy” or judgmental.