

TOBACCO USE AND POSSESSION

The Maine Indian Joint School Committee believes that tobacco use is the most preventable behavioral factor contributing to illness, disability, and death.

In order to promote the health and safety of all students and staff and to promote the cleanliness of all facilities, the Maine Indian Joint School Committee prohibits smoking and the use of all other tobacco products in school buildings, facilities, and on school grounds. Each individual school committee will designate the parameters for the “no smoking zone.” Smoking is also prohibited on school buses during school-sponsored events by all persons, including students and employees. The only exception to this rule would be for cultural activities and Native American ceremonies. The principal must be notified in advance by the teacher who is supervising the use of tobacco for cultural activities or Native American ceremonies. Aside from this exception, no tobacco use is permitted at any time while school is in session or at any school-sponsored functions.

The Maine Indian Education Joint School Committee prohibits advertising tobacco products in school buildings, on school property, and at school functions, and in all school publications. This includes advertising on clothing, such as T-shirts or hats, worn to school or to school-sponsored activities.

In addition, students are further prohibited from possessing, selling, distributing or dispensing tobacco products in school buildings, facilities and on school grounds and buses during school-sponsored events and at all other times.

Employees and all other persons are also strictly prohibited, under law and Maine Indian Education’s Joint School Committee policy, from selling, distributing or in any way dispensing tobacco products to students.

Because tobacco use leads to dependency, the Joint School Committee is committed to implementing comprehensive school health education programs. Age-appropriate tobacco prevention education has been incorporated into Maine Indian Education’s comprehensive health education curriculum in alignment with the Parameters for Essential Instruction’s Health and Physical Education Standards and will include awareness of the school policy.

Maine Indian Education will provide information on how to access cessation programs for students and staff.

This tobacco policy will be printed in employee and student handbooks on a yearly basis. Parents/guardians will be sent notification in writing of this tobacco policy in the student handbooks. Tobacco-free school signs will be posted in highly visible places both inside and outside school buildings including the Central Office. Signs will be posted at all entrances of school buildings. The local media will be asked to communicate this tobacco free policy community-wide.

ADC

Legal Reference: 22 MRSA §§ 1578(B), 1580(A)(3) Me. PL 470 (An Act to Reduce Tobacco Use By Minors) 20 USC 6081-6084 (Pro-Children Act of 1994)

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ITSC Adopted 5/11/10
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