



THE TOP 10 REASONS YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT SHOULD BE TOBACCO-FREE!

<p>1.</p>	<p>100% Tobacco-free schools provide positive role modeling by adult employees and visitors.</p>	<p>A 100% tobacco-free school (TFS) policy represents a firm commitment by school administration, teachers and parents to prohibit tobacco use by students, employees and visitors. Compliance with the TFS policy confirms this commitment and provides genuine opportunities for adults and peers to serve as role models for not using tobacco. A 2003 study found that students were more likely to smoke in locations where they saw other students and adults smoking. In addition, youth look to adults they respect, such as teachers and school staff, as role models. For these reasons, it is important that all school staff serve as positive role models for students and not use any tobacco products in their presence.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Lessons learned in the classroom are reinforced with a 100% TFS policy.</p>	<p>Tobacco use prevention education is an essential element of comprehensive school health programs. Curricula often teach resistance skills to help children learn to say no to offers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Coaches of athletic teams regularly prohibit tobacco use by team members. School hallways and bulletin boards often display prevention messages. Children get a mixed message if they step outside their classrooms to view clusters of teachers, visitors or staff using tobacco on school grounds. Schools and school events that are not tobacco-free send conflicting messages to students about tobacco use.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>100% TFS districts provide a safe environment for students by reducing exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke.</p>	<p>Children are especially sensitive to the effects of secondhand smoke. Passing by an outdoor smoking area can trigger an asthma attack or worsen breathing problems for many students. As little as 30 minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke can affect the coronary arteries of healthy, young nonsmokers. It causes acute and chronic respiratory disease, ear and upper respiratory infections — all primary causes of school absences.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>100% TFS policies protect children from developing an addiction to a dangerous drug.</p>	<p>The U.S. Food and Drug Administration classifies nicotine as a drug. School policies do not allow the use of other drugs or alcohol on school grounds or at school sponsored events. Why should an exception be made for nicotine and tobacco?</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>100% TFS policies comply with Federal Legislation prohibiting smoking inside school buildings.</p>	<p>The Pro Children Acts of 1994 and 2001 state the following: “No person shall permit smoking within any indoor facility utilized for services to kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children.” Children’s services for routine health care or day care or early childhood development are also included. This applies to all schools and programs that are funded by federal state or local governments.</p>



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6.	100% TFS policies work in conjunction with state and federal laws.	Federal law requires federally funded school districts to ban smoking in their “indoor facilities.” However, the law specifically allows states and schools districts to have more restrictive laws.
7.	100% TFS policies help compliance with state laws designed to limit access to tobacco by children.	State law prohibits the sale or distribution to and possession of tobacco products by people under age 18. Schools districts can uphold the intent of the law by crafting policies that prohibit tobacco possession or use by students, and use by employees and visitors at all times, in all school buildings, on all school grounds and at all school sponsored events.
8.	100% TFS policies prepare students for the reality of tobacco-free workplaces and communities.	Tobacco-free workplaces are quickly becoming the rule rather than the exception. TFS policies prepare students for tobacco-free worksites, restaurants, airplanes, malls and more.
9.	100% TFS policies protect schools from the risk of future liability by prohibiting smoking on school premises.	Individuals have recovered damages in lawsuits because their employers failed to provide a safe, smoke-free work environment. With the rise in the number of children with asthma, there may be grounds for future lawsuits against schools, particularly if an asthma attack or other respiratory problems are triggered because a child is exposed to tobacco smoke in a school setting.
10.	100% TFS reduces the risk of fires due to “smoking materials.”	<p>“Smoking material fires - started with lighted tobacco products rather than lighters or matches - are the leading cause of fire deaths in the U.S. Lighted cigarettes can be easily tossed into school trash cans, dumpsters, landscaping and other flammable areas placing schools and school children at increased risk of injury due to fires. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org.</p> <p>Source: Material listed here was adapted from both the NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch and the Grass Roots Guide for Tobacco-Free Schools in North Carolina.</p>