

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: JCC
Responsible Office: DIVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

USE OF TOBACCO BY STUDENTS

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures that prohibit the sale, use, distribution, or possession of tobacco or tobacco products in any form by students at all times on all school property and at any school-sponsored activity.

B. ISSUE

In accordance with State law and regulations, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) must maintain a tobacco-free school environment.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***School Grounds*** – AACPS owned or leased land that surrounds a school building including all charter and contract school facilities.
2. ***School Property*** – refers to any property, vehicle, building, or grounds leased to, under the jurisdiction of, or owned by the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) or any component of AACPS.
3. ***School-Sponsored Activity*** – any organized class, field trip, extracurricular activity, co-curricular activity, interscholastic sports event, or transportation involving students and sponsored by, supervised by, approved by, or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Board or its agents or representatives regardless of when or where the activity takes place.
4. ***Tobacco*** – Products derived from the tobacco plant that are smoked, chewed, sniffed or otherwise consumed, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and vapor pens whether or not containing tobacco products. Tobacco does not include nicotine replacement therapy that is prescribed by a medical provider and coordinated at the school administration level.
5. ***Anti-Tobacco Use Program*** – the AACPS program designed to educate and counsel

students about the hazards of tobacco use.

6. ***Nicotine Replacement Therapy*** – a medically prescribed treatment that involves the use of products that provide low doses of nicotine but do not contain the toxins found in smoke. The goal of therapy is to relieve cravings for nicotine and ease the symptoms when someone stops using cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

D. PROCEDURES

AACPS is designated as a tobacco-free environment. Accordingly, AACPS students are subject to State and federal laws as well as AACPS policies and regulations regarding tobacco. The sale, use, distribution, and possession of tobacco in any form is prohibited from all AACPS buildings, facilities, warehouses, school buildings, and school grounds whether owned or leased at all times, 24 hours a day, every day. Similarly, the sale, use, and possession of tobacco in any form is prohibited from all AACPS buses and vehicles whether owned or leased, at all times, 24 hours a day, every day.

1. AACPS students are prohibited from selling, using, distributing, or possessing tobacco and tobacco products on AACPS property, school property, school grounds, and school-sponsored activities whether on or off school property.
2. After conducting an investigation and if it has been established to the satisfaction of the principal or the principal's designee that a student has violated this regulation by selling, using, distributing, or possessing tobacco or tobacco products, the following actions shall be taken.
 - a. ***First Offense***
 - i. A student who violates this regulation must meet with a school administrator who shall remind the student of the provisions embodied in this regulation. The student must also sign a letter acknowledging violation of the regulation and an understanding of the consequences for subsequent violations.
 - ii. Additionally, the letter shall include information notifying the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) that the student is required to participate in and successfully complete the AACPS Anti-Tobacco Use Program (ATUP) and that the student's parent(s)/guardians(s) are also required to participate in the ATUP.
 - iii. A copy of this letter shall be sent to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and a copy shall be placed in the student's cumulative record file.
 - iv. The student shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the *AACPS Code of Student Conduct*.

- v. A student who fails to attend and complete the ATUP shall be suspended from school and the school principal or the principal’s designee may request that the Superintendent administer further disciplinary action.

2. *Second Offense*

- i. A student who commits a second violation of this regulation shall be disciplined in accordance with the *AACPS Code of Student Conduct* and receive referral to the School Health Office.
- ii. In order to be readmitted to school, the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) shall sign a *Tobacco Reinstatement* form and a conference shall be held with a school administrator.
- iii. The school administrator shall recommend that the student enroll and successfully complete a recognized out-of-school anti-tobacco use counseling or treatment program. Written information concerning such programs shall be provided to the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s).
- iv. Additionally, the student shall be afforded the opportunity to enroll for a second time in the AACPS ATUP.

3. *Additional Offenses*

A further violation of this regulation shall result in the student being suspended for up to 10 school days.

4. *Students Receiving Special Education Services*

Disciplinary procedures for students with disabilities who violate this regulation shall be administered in accordance with the *AACPS Handbook for Special Education* and *AACPS Code of Student Conduct*.

Regulation History: Issued 10/22/13; Revised 08/31/21

Note Previous Regulation History: Issued 06/07/06; replaces Policy 902.09
Developed by Superintendent 10/16/13
Reviewed by Board of Education 10/16/13
Issued 10/22/13

Legal References: Sections 2-205 and 4-124 of the Education Article; Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.02.04 Tobacco-Free School Environment