

10 GOOD REASONS FOR A 100% TOBACCO-FREE POLICY

1. PROVIDES POSITIVE ADULT ROLE MODELS FOR STUDENTS.

Over 40% of students in New York report seeing adults smoking on campus. A 100% tobacco-free policy represents a firm commitment by the school to prohibit tobacco use and provides positive role models for students.

2. PROTECTS CHILDREN FROM DEVELOPING AN ADDICTION TO TOBACCO.

Ninety percent of adult smokers began in their teens and nearly two-thirds become daily smokers before the age of 19. Tobacco kills over 25,000 people in New York every year. Students who attend schools with tobacco-free policies that are enforced are less likely to use tobacco.

3. PROVIDES A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT BY REDUCING EXPOSURE TO SECONDHAND TOBACCO SMOKE.

Exposure to secondhand smoke irritates the lungs, eyes, and nasal passages, causes lung cancer and heart disease, and in children, increased ear infections, colds, coughs, asthma and asthma symptoms contributing to increased absenteeism. Exposure to secondhand smoke also impairs a child's ability to learn, putting them at increased risk for difficulties with reading and math.

4. REINFORCES AND SUPPORTS INSTRUCTION IN THE CLASSROOM AND OTHER PROGRAMS.

Students are taught about the hazards of tobacco use, how to resist using it, and they are subject to the extracurricular codes on tobacco use and possession. Allowing adults to use tobacco on school grounds sends a conflicting message to students about tobacco use.

5. CHANGES THE NORMS REGARDING TOBACCO USE.

People tend to act in accordance with group expectations and behaviors. Adopting a Tobacco-Free School Policy reinforces current norms where eight out of ten people in New York don't smoke and over 70% of adults support smoke-free policies.

6. COUNTERACTS THE TARGETING OF CHILDREN BY THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

The tobacco industry is losing millions of customers who are dying or becoming disabled from tobacco use. They need new users. Internal industry documents indicate that tobacco companies have purposefully marketed to children as young as 14.

7. COMPLIES WITH LAWS PROHIBITING SMOKING IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

State and Federal laws prohibit tobacco use and/or smoking in school buildings, grounds, and vehicles.

8. PREPARES STUDENTS FOR TOBACCO-FREE WORKPLACES & COMMUNITIES.

With passage of the New York State Clean Indoor Air Act in 2003 and similar laws being passed in communities, states, and countries worldwide, tobacco-free worksites and communities are becoming the norm.

9. PROTECTS SCHOOLS FROM THE RISK OF FUTURE LIABILITY.

Litigation related to exposure to secondhand smoke has been successful in recovering damages from employers who failed to provide a safe, smoke-free work environment. With the rise in the number of children with asthma this may be more cause for concern if symptoms are triggered when a child is exposed to tobacco smoke at school.

10. REDUCES THE RISK OF FIRES DUE TO SMOKING MATERIALS.

Fires caused by smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths in the U.S. These materials tossed into trash cans and on the grounds put students and staff at increased risk of injury due to fire.



*Strong tobacco control policy for schools in
Chenango, Cortland and Tompkins Counties*