

I. OVERVIEW

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 county. Tobacco use can be hazardous to the health of both users and non-users. For users, it can contribute to heart attack, stroke, high blood pressure, emphysema, and several forms of cancer. Non-users can be affected by breathing the toxic products that tobacco smoke adds to the air and may also risk development of preventable causes of mortality. Thousands of adolescents begin using tobacco products each year in New Mexico, the majority of whom become regular users as adults.

The Lordsburg Board of Education is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive environment for staff, students, and school patrons. The Board believes that education has a central role in establishing patterns of behavior related to good health and shall take measures to help students resist tobacco use. The Board is also concerned about the health of employees and recognizes the importance of adult role-modeling for students during the formative years. Therefore the Board shall promote non-smoking and non-tobacco use by staff, students and school patrons.

The use of tobacco by students, school staff, parents, and school visitors in school buildings, on school property, and in school-owned vehicles is prohibited. The use of tobacco by students at school functions away from school property is also prohibited.

Communicating this policy to students, school staff, parents, school visitors and the community, shall be the responsibility of each building level administrator and shall include at a minimum:

- Public announcements to students and staff members
- Memos sent to parents of students at all grade levels
- Posting of appropriate signs at each school site
- Publication of policy in local newspaper at the beginning of each school year.

The success of this policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of users and non-users. All individuals on school premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy.

II. ENFORCEMENT

Any person who violates this policy commits an unlawful act under the provisions of the Clean Indoor Air Act and is subject to criminal prosecution outlined in the Clear Indoor Air Act, Section 24-16-11, NMSA 1978, and/or to disciplinary action from the Lordsburg Board of Education or their designee(s) as applicable.

III. TOBACCO-FREE DEFINED

Tobacco-free means that no smoking, dipping, sniffing, or chewing of any tobacco products shall be permitted.