



Tobacco-Free Policy

Rationale

The health hazards of tobacco use have been well established. This policy is established to:

1. reflect and emphasize the hazards of tobacco use;
2. be consistent with state and federal laws;
3. protect the health and safety of all students, employees and the public; and
4. set a non-tobacco use example by adults.

Tobacco is the number one killer and leading cause of preventative death in Kentucky. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students the school board of the Owensboro Catholic Schools establishes the following tobacco-free policy.

Use and Possession Prohibitions

Owensboro Catholic Schools, inclusive of all its buildings and athletic facilities, strives to be tobacco-free.

Possession or use of tobacco products by students on OCS property or in OCS vehicles and at school-sponsored events (whether on or off OCS property) is prohibited at all times.

The use of tobacco products by all school employees on OCS property or in OCS vehicles and at school-sponsored events (whether on or off OCS property) is prohibited at all times.

The use of tobacco products by all visitors to OCS is prohibited in all OCS buildings and athletic facilities.

Advertising of tobacco products is prohibited in school buildings, on OCS property, at school functions and in all school publications. This includes clothing that advertises tobacco products.

Prevention Education

Tobacco prevention education will be incorporated in the OCS comprehensive health curriculum so that students will be aware of the health and social consequences of use/nonuse of tobacco products. Teachers whose instructional assignments include tobacco use prevention education will be trained in order that students will be afforded the most effective delivery of the OCS's classroom-based tobacco prevention education.

Communications to Students, Staff and Public

This policy will be printed in the employee and student handbooks. It will be posted in highly visible places in all schools. Signs will be posted at all entrances of school buildings, school properties and athletic facilities. Parents and guardians shall be sent notification in writing.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, “tobacco” is defined to include any lit or unlit cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless tobacco, dip, chew, and snuff, in any form.

For purposes of this policy, “tobacco use” included smoking, which means carrying or having in one’s possession a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other object giving off or containing any substance giving off smoke, and chewing spit tobacco, also known as smokeless tobacco, dip, chew, and snuff, in any form.

The term “use” means the chewing, lighting and smoking of any tobacco product.

For purposes of this policy, “OCS buildings and property” is defined to include all school buildings, adjoining parking lots and church properties, and athletic facilities.