

TOBACCO FREE POLICY

The purpose of this Tobacco Free Policy is to ensure the safety and health of the students and staff of the New Mexico School for the Arts (the “School”), a statewide public high school for students with exceptional promise in the arts.

The School recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, employees, visitors, and school facilities. The School believes that the use of tobacco products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, on school property or at school-related or school-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff and visitors. The School acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students. The School recognizes that it has an obligation to promote positive role models in school and to promote healthy learning and working environment, free from unwanted smoke and tobacco use for the students, employees, and visitors on the school campus.

Tobacco Use Prohibited

No student, staff member or school visitor is permitted to use any tobacco product at any time, including non-school hours:

- In any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the School;
- On any school grounds and property – including athletic fields and parking lots – owned leased, rented or chartered by the School; or
- At any school-sponsored or school-related event on-campus or off-campus.

In addition, the School employees, volunteers, contractors or other persons performing services on behalf of the School also are prohibited from using tobacco products at any time while on duty and in the presence of students, either on or off school grounds.

Further, no student is permitted to possess a tobacco product while in any School building, while on the School grounds or property or at any School sponsored or School related event or at any other time that students are under the authority of School personnel.

Tobacco products may be included in instructional or research activities in school buildings if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

Definition of Tobacco Products and Tobacco Use

For the purposes of this policy, “tobacco product” is defined to include but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, e-cigarettes, electronic vaporizers and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. “Tobacco Use” includes smoking, chewing, dipping or any other use of tobacco products.

Signage

Signs will be posted in a manner and location that adequately notify students, staff and visitors about the 100 percent tobacco-free policy.

Enforcement for Students

Consequences for engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with the School's Student Handbook. Students who violate the school's tobacco free policy will be referred to the Head of School or other School personnel for health information, counseling and referral. Parents/guardians will be notified of all violations and actions taken by the School. The School also may use community service as part of the consequences. Suspension will only be used after a student has three or more prior violations or has refused to participate in other outlined measures.

Enforcement for Staff and Visitors

Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies and may include verbal warning, written reprimand, or termination. Visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on School property or to leave the premises. Law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing if the person refuses to leave School.

Opportunities for Cessation

The administration will consult with the county health department and other appropriate health organizations to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems, programs and services to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

Prevention Education

The School will consult with appropriate health organizations to identify and provide programs or opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco use as it relates to providing a safe, orderly, clean and inviting school environment.

This Tobacco Free Policy was amended by the Governing Council of the New Mexico School for the Arts, effective July 11, 2014.

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
GOVERNING COUNCIL

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

ATTEST;



SHERRY THOMPSON, Chair
of the Governing Council



PAULA TACKETT, Secretary
of the Governing Council