



TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICY

Intent

In accordance with the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act, use by students, teachers, faculty, staff, employees, parents, and visitors on school property, and at school-sponsored functions away from school property is prohibited. Tobacco-use on school property is prohibited during school and non-school hours.

In accordance with Utah State Law (HB95) possession, sale, delivery, transfer, or distribution of tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia by students, employees, parents, and visitors is prohibited within 1000 feet of school property or within 1000 feet of any school-sponsored activity. No tobacco advertising will be permitted in any form in the school buildings, at school functions, or in school publications. Endorsement of or sponsorship in any form of school-related events by tobacco companies is prohibited.

The Ranches Academy teachers shall incorporate tobacco-prevention into their health unit curriculum. Teachers in grades K-6 are encouraged to use research-based best practice curriculum. All teachers are encouraged to draw on the resource of the Local Health Department (LHD) for prevention to assist in teaching these materials.

Rationale

Despite major national movements to undermine tobacco companies and tobacco marketing, tobacco-use is still the leading cause of preventable death, disease, and disability in the United States.¹ Tobacco is addictive. Illnesses caused by tobacco use increase demands on the U.S. healthcare system. Statistics show most people who use tobacco begin before they reach the age of 18² Many children and adolescents do not understand health consequences of tobacco use. Evidence shows that school health programs can be an effective means of preventing tobacco use among youth.³ Providing effective tobacco use prevention education is important for The Ranches Academy.

Reinforcement

In the event that any student, teacher, faculty, or staff is found using, selling, in possession of, or distributing tobacco, the school administrator will offer the option of completing a cessation class. If they choose not to participate in a cessation class, students will be suspended for the day, referred to local law enforcement, and processed through the court system according to Utah laws. Teachers, faculty, staff, parents and visitors will be referred to local law enforcement.

If any student, teacher, faculty, staff, employee, parent, or visitor is found advertising tobacco within 1000 feet of the school, they will be notified of the policy and asked to discontinue. If they continue, students will be suspended for the day, teachers, faculty, and staff will receive a written warning, and parents and visitors will be asked to leave the premises.

This policy will be reviewed at a faculty meeting within the first month of each school year. Teachers, faculty, and staff will educate students, families, and visitors of the tobacco-free policy in handbooks and newsletters, on posted notices or signs at every school entrance and other appropriate locations, and by other efficient means. To the extent possible, schools and districts will make use of local media to publicize the policies and help influence community norms about tobacco use.

The Director and PE specialist will review policy at the beginning of each year.

Teacher, faculty, and staff participation is vital to the success of this policy. This policy will be discussed during the first meeting of the year. Any classes found not routinely participating in the required amount of structured physical activity each week will receive a warning from the Director.

Endorsement

Susie Scherer

Director Name

Susie Scherer

Director Signature

11-8-12

Date

Stephanie Colson

Board President

Stephanie Colson

Board President Signature

11-13-12

Date

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Surgeon General? Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, January 2001
2. National Association for Sport and Physical Education, *Moving into the Future: National Standards for Physical Education, 2nd Edition*, 2004. Available at www.aahperd.org/naspe/template.cfm?template=publications-nationalstandards_3.html
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Physical Activity and Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*, April 1999