

HARVEST RIDGE COOPERATIVE CHARTER SCHOOL

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICY

Ample research has demonstrated the health hazards associated with the use of tobacco products, including smoking and the breathing of secondhand smoke. Harvest Ridge Cooperative Charter School (“HRCCS” or the “Charter School”) provides instructional programs designed to discourage students from using tobacco products. The HRCCS Governing Board (“Board”) recognizes that smoking and other uses of tobacco and nicotine products constitute a serious public health hazard and are inconsistent with the goals of all HRCCS to provide a healthy environment for students and staff.

HRCCS employees are expected to serve as models for good health practices that are consistent with these instructional programs.

In the best interest of students, employees, and the general public, the HRCCS’s Board therefore prohibits the use of tobacco products at all times on HRCCS property and in HRCCS vehicles. This prohibition applies to all employees, students, visitors, and other persons at the Charter School or at a Charter School-sponsored activity or athletic event. It applies to any meeting on any property owned, leased, or rented by or from HRCCS. It also applies to any student while under the supervision and control of Charter School employees.

The products prohibited include any product containing tobacco or nicotine, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, chew, clove cigarettes, betel, electronic cigarettes, electronic hookahs, and other vapor-emitting devices, with or without nicotine content, that mimic the use of tobacco products.

This Policy does not prohibit the use or possession of prescription products, nicotine patches, nicotine gum or a nicotine replacement product or cessation aids that have been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Smoking or use of any tobacco-related product or disposal of any tobacco-related waste is prohibited within 25 feet of any playground, except on a public sidewalk located within 25 feet of the playground. Smoking or use of any tobacco-related product is also prohibited within 250 feet of the youth sports event in the same park or facility where a youth sports event is taking place. In addition, any form of intimidation, threat, or retaliation against a person for attempting to enforce this Policy is prohibited.

The Executive Director or designee shall inform students, parents/guardians, employees, and the public about this Policy. All individuals on HRCCS’s premises share in the responsibility of adhering to this Policy. Additionally, HRCCS will post signs stating "Tobacco use is prohibited" prominently at all entrances to Charter School property.

The Executive Director or designee shall maintain a list of clinics and community resources that may assist employees who wish to stop using tobacco products.

The Executive Director or designee may disseminate this information through the HRCCS web site, student and parent handbooks, and/or other appropriate methods of communication.

Appropriate Charter School officials will monitor HRCCS property and facilities for compliance with this Board Policy. The Executive Director shall develop and maintain procedures to resolve grievances that may result from alleged non-compliance.

Any HRCCS employee or student who violates this Policy shall be asked to refrain from smoking and shall be subject to disciplinary action as appropriate.

Any other person who violates this Tobacco-Free Schools Policy shall be informed of this Policy and asked to refrain from smoking. If the person fails to comply with this request, the Executive Director or designee may:

1. Direct the person to leave school property.
2. Request local law enforcement assistance in removing the person from the Charter School premises.
3. If the person repeatedly violates the Tobacco-Free Schools Policy, prohibit him/her from entering Charter School property for a specified period of time.

The Executive Director or designee shall not be required to physically eject a non-employee or non-student who is smoking or to request that the non-employee or non-student refrain from smoking under circumstances involving a risk of physical harm to the Charter School or any employee.