

**TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL AND PROLONGED VEHICLE IDLING POLICY****1. Statement of Purpose:**

The School Committee is committed to providing a tobacco-free and smoke-free environment for the health and well being of the entire school community – students, staff, and visitors to its facilities. Education about the consequences of tobacco use is an integral part of the Milton Public Schools Health Curriculum. The use of tobacco products has a direct link to numerous health problems. The exhaust fumes from idling vehicles can also be harmful to health. Tobacco prevention and education play critical roles in establishing life-long, positive health habits. The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirements of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Sections 2A and 37H. It is the intention of the School Committee to prohibit the use or distribution of tobacco products at all times whether or not school is in session within school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses or in other school vehicles, and at all school-sponsored activities in order to improve the health of students, all school personnel and visitors. Further, it is the intention of the School Committee to prohibit any school or personal vehicle from prolonged idling while on school property.

**2. Definitions:**

**School:** All school buildings that are a part of the Milton Public Schools.

**School Grounds:** Property owned or controlled by the Milton Public Schools, including but not limited to school buildings, structures, open space, playgrounds, sports or recreational facilities whether enclosed or not, vehicles owned or leased by the Milton Public Schools for the purpose of transporting students, school driveways, and school parking lots.

**School Personnel:** A person who performs services for the Milton Public Schools, including but not limited to administrators, teachers, teacher's aides, school counselors, coaches, assistant coaches, school nurses and therapists, cafeteria workers, administrative staff, janitorial staff, volunteers, interns, security guards.

**School-sponsored Activity:** An activity at least partially funded or controlled by the Milton Public Schools or the parent-teacher organization to which students are invited and which occurs on or off school grounds, such as, but not limited to, graduation, sporting events, work internships, job shadowing, dances, field trips or class picnic, etc.

**Student:** A person enrolled in the Milton Public Schools.

**Tobacco cessation:** An intervention program applied to treat tobacco addiction.

**Tobacco Use:** The inhaling, exhaling or consuming of any lit or unlit tobacco product or carrying of any lit tobacco product; also, the possession by a student on school grounds of a tobacco product.

**Visitor:** Any person on school grounds who is not a student or staff member. Examples include repair or delivery personnel, security personnel, presenters, consultants, students or staff from other schools, parents, outside facility users.

**3. Tobacco Product Use Prohibited:** No student, school personnel or visitor shall use a tobacco product at any time while on school grounds, on school buses or other school vehicles, or at a school-sponsored activity as defined herein.

**4. Idling of Vehicles Restricted:** Operators of school vehicles and personal vehicles are prohibited from any prolonged idling of said vehicles while on school grounds except when such idling is necessary to operate defrosting, heating or cooling equipment to ensure the health or safety of a driver or passengers. In addition, the Registry of Motor Vehicles shall notify all individuals certified and endorsed to be school bus drivers of their obligations under the law related to this policy.

**5. Violations:** Violations of this policy should be referred to a school administrator and will be addressed with the appropriate sanctions or remedies. Nothing contained herein shall operate to limit the authority of any person or the sanctions that may otherwise be imposed by law for violating this policy or the law.

**6. Visitors:** Announcers at all events will remind visitors that the Milton Public Schools is a tobacco-free environment and that schools are required by law to keep school premises tobacco free.

**7. Severability:**

If any provision of this policy is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby, but shall continue in full force and effect.

**8. Conflict with Other Policies, Laws or Regulations:**

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, nothing in this policy shall be deemed to amend or repeal applicable fire, health or other laws or regulations so as to permit smoking in areas where it is prohibited by such fire, health or other laws or regulations.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:2A  
M.G.L. 71:37H

CROSS REF: JICG and KF  
Student Handbooks  
Faculty Guide  
ADC Tobacco-Free Schools

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading: November 1, 2004*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:*

*Adoption:*

*Proposed reconsideration:*

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading: February 15, 2012*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: March 14, 2012*

*Adopted: March 14, 2012*

*Milton Public Schools*