



Comprehensive Tobacco-Free School Policy: Why It Matters

The American Lung Association of Oregon, the Oregon Public Health Division Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP), and the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) are working with Oregon school districts to adopt and implement tobacco-free policies that exceed the [state requirements](#) set by the Oregon State Board of Education.

A good comprehensive tobacco-free school policy deters individual tobacco use and benefits the entire school community by:

- creating a healthier environment, reinforcing tobacco-free norms and attitudes so that students choose not to start using tobacco;
- reducing exposure to secondhand smoke;
- decreasing current consumption of tobacco and helping people quit; and
- protecting students from tobacco company influences

THE BOTTOM LINE: A clearly articulated comprehensive tobacco-free school policy, applied fairly and consistently, reduces youth tobacco use.

The OSBA provides “sample” comprehensive tobacco-free school policy language. [Most school districts in Oregon have adopted policies exceeding the state-required minimum standards.](#)

County Health Departments are working with local school districts to ensure that comprehensive tobacco-free policies are adopted, implemented, communicated and enforced effectively. The American Lung Association of Oregon provides technical assistance to counties and school districts in Oregon in the areas of policy drafting and review, implementation and enforcement.

Please contact the American Lung Association of Oregon with questions about your school district’s tobacco policy:

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