

GCCSA Commercial Tobacco-Free School Policy

Purpose:

The Gate City Charter School for the Arts (GCCSA) Board of Trustees recognizes that the use of commercial tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, staff, visitors, and school facilities. The board is acutely aware of the serious health risks associated with the use of commercial tobacco products, both to users and non-users. The board believes that the use or promotion of commercial tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, on school grounds and at off-campus school-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors. The Board also believes accepting tobacco industry gifts or materials will send an inconsistent message to students, staff and visitors. The Board embraces its obligation to promote positive role models in schools, and to provide an environment for learning and working that is safe, healthy, and free from unwanted smoke and commercial tobacco use for the students, staff, and visitors.

Policy:

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student of the Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA) to possess, use, consume, display, promote, or sell any tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, imitation tobacco products, or electronic smoking devices at any time on school property or at off-campus, school-sponsored events. It shall be a violation of this policy for any staff, administrator, or visitor of the Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA) to use, consume, display, promote, or sell any commercial tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, imitation tobacco products, or electronic smoking devices at any time on school property or at off-campus, school-sponsored events.

It shall be a violation of this policy for the Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA) to solicit or accept any contributions, gifts, money, curricula, or materials from the tobacco industry or from any tobacco products retailer. This includes, but is not limited to, donations, monies for sponsorship, advertising, promotions, loans, or support for equipment, uniforms, and sports and/or training facilities. It shall be a violation of this policy to participate in any type of service funded by the tobacco industry while in the scope of employment for the Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA).

Exceptions:

It shall not be a violation of this policy for a person to possess or provide tobacco or tobacco-related devices to any other person as part of an indigenous practice or a lawfully recognized religious, spiritual, or cultural ceremony or practice.

It shall not be a violation of this policy for use of tobacco or tobacco-related devices as part of an educational experience related to indigenous tobacco practices that has been approved by school administrators.

It shall not be a violation of this policy for tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, imitation tobacco products, or lighters to be included in instructional or work-related activities in Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA) school building(s) if the activity is conducted by a staff member or an approved visitor and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the product.

FDA approved cessation products or tobacco dependence products are exempt from this policy for adults and staff eighteen years and older.

Definitions:

The term “any time” means during normal school and non-school hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The term “electronic smoking device” means any product containing or delivering nicotine, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption through the inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product.

The term electronic smoking device includes, but is not limited to, devices manufactured, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens, mods, tank systems, JUUL, or under any other product name or descriptor.

The term electronic smoking device includes any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately, including but not limited to e-liquids, e-juice, cartridges, and pods.

The term “imitation tobacco product” means any edible non-tobacco product designed to resemble a tobacco product, or non-edible, non-tobacco product designed to resemble a tobacco product that is intended to be used by children as a toy. Examples of imitation tobacco products include but are not limited to: candy or chocolate cigarettes, bubble gum cigars, shredded bubble gum resembling chewing tobacco, pouches containing flavored substances packaged similar to snus, shredded beef jerky in containers resembling snuff tins, plastic cigars, and puff cigarettes.

The term “off-campus, school-sponsored event” means any event sponsored by the school or school district that is not on school property, including but not limited to, sporting events, day camps, field trips, entertainment seminars, dances or theatrical productions.

The term “school property” means all facilities and property, including land, whether owned, rented, or leased by Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA), and all vehicles owned, leased, rented, contracted for, or controlled by Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA) used for transported students, staff and visitors.

The term “smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette or pipe, or any other lighted or heated product containing, made, or derived from nicotine, tobacco, marijuana, or other plant, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for inhalation. “Smoking” also includes carrying or using an activated electronic smoking device.

The term “staff” means any person employed by Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA) as full or part-time, or any position contracted for or otherwise employed, with direct, or indirect monetary wages or profits paid by Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA) or anyone working on a volunteer basis. This term includes, but is not limited to: faculty, service personnel, volunteers, chaperones, and others who work for the Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA).

The term “student” means any person enrolled in Gate City Charter School for Arts (GCCSA)’s education system.

The term “tobacco industry” means manufacturers, distributors or wholesalers of tobacco products, electronic smoking devices, or tobacco-related devices; this includes parent companies and subsidiaries.

The term “tobacco industry brand” means any corporate name, trademark, logo, symbol, motto, selling message, recognizable pattern of colors, or any other indication of product identification identical or similar to those used for any brand of tobacco product, company, or manufacturer of tobacco products.

The term “tobacco product” means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or that contains nicotine, whether synthetic or natural, that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including but not limited to, cigarettes; electronic smoking devices; cigars; little cigars; cheroots; stogies; periques; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine-cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco, and other kinds and forms of tobacco.

The term “tobacco products retailer” means a retail establishment that derives more than 90 percent of its gross revenue from the sale of tobacco products, as defined in this policy.

The term “tobacco-related devices” means ashtrays, rolling papers, wraps, or pipes for smoking or using tobacco products, or any components, parts, or accessories of electronic smoking devices, including cartridges.

Passed by BoT - 2/17/25