Evaluation of Tobacco-free Policies in South Dakota Schools

May 2019
Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without the cooperation and input of K-12 superintendents and administrators throughout South Dakota. Thank you for your time and input. In addition, we thank Jacob Parsons, Tobacco Control Program Director, DeEtta Dugstad, Tobacco Control Program Coordinator, and Ashley Heyne, Central Region Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for guidance. Undergraduate research assistants, SDSU students Hannah Colgrove, Kamile VanDyke and Leah Hendrickson, and graduate research assistants Derek Gravholt and Molly Wermers facilitated data collection for the project.

Project Funding

Staff in the Population Health Evaluation Center at South Dakota State University were supported by an interagency agreement with the South Dakota Department of Health to conduct this assessment. The contents of this report are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agency.

This project completed by

Population Health Evaluation Center
College of Nursing
South Dakota State University

Project Team

Jennifer Kerkvliet, MA, LPC
Callie Molengraaf, BS
Beth Walstrom, BS
Barb Terry

Suggested Citation

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Executive Summary
Evaluation of Tobacco-free Policies in South Dakota Schools

Tobacco use and exposure continue to be a serious concern for South Dakota youth, with 10.1% of high school students currently using cigarettes¹, and 4.9% of middle school students currently using tobacco.² Use of vaping products among youth is rising, with 17.3% of high school students¹ and 2.5% of middle school students² reporting use of e-cigarettes in the past 30 days. Schools play a significant role in preventing youth initiation of tobacco use, along with protecting youth from exposure. Strong tobacco-free school (TFS) policies that prohibit tobacco use by all persons, at all times, on all school property, and at all school events are useful for school administrators to protect youth. Enforcement of strong TFS policies is a vitally important mechanism to decrease students’ exposure to secondhand smoke. The purpose of this report is to describe the number and quality of tobacco-free school (TFS) policies existing in school districts throughout South Dakota (SD). A second aim is to assess improvement in TFS policies compared to prior findings (2014) to determine the level of progress made. Key findings from the report are:

### Tobacco Free Policy in SD School Districts
- District-wide TFS policies were in place in 70.4% of the responding school districts (public and non-public) in 2019.
- The number of districts with a district-wide TFS policy in place improved from 64.2% of districts in 2014 to 70.4% of districts in 2019.
- Public school districts were more likely to have a TFS policy (51.1%), while non-public school districts were less likely to have a TFS policy (38.6%).

### Tobacco Free Policy Quality
- The comprehensiveness of TFS policies were scored based on recommended criteria. Scores were significantly higher in 2019 at 49.7% when compared to 2014 policies at 42.2%.
- A significant portion of districts made changes to strengthen policies (44.3%) between 2014 and 2019.
- No designated area for tobacco use was the most common item identified in all policies (95.4%).
- Identification of a person or role for questions or concerns about the TFS policy and sustain maintenance of the policy, was not found in any of the TFS policies.

### Superintendent Feedback
- Enforcement of TFS policies was a concern for 27.2% of superintendents surveyed.
- Less than half of the policies assessed (47%) specifically prohibited use of vaping products, although 80% of superintendent surveys indicated a ban on vaping products.
- Almost one-third (31.8%) of superintendents surveyed could not identify a photo of Juul® as a vaping product.
Evaluation of Tobacco-free Policies in South Dakota Schools

Background

Significant declines in youth tobacco use have been noted in the past decades. In a six-year period from 2011 to 2017, national rates of current tobacco use among high school students, including e-cigarettes, dropped by nearly 5% from 24.2% to 19.6%. Similar declines were found in tobacco use among middle school students, declining from 7.5% current use in 2011 to 5.6% in 2017. The data suggests that tobacco control efforts, such as limiting access and creating policies, are positively impacting youth tobacco use. However, with nearly one in five high school youth still using tobacco products, ongoing efforts are needed.

Tobacco use and exposure continue to be a serious concern for South Dakota (SD) youth. In 2015, 10.1% of high school students reported current cigarette use, with 4.1% reporting use on school property. Vaping continues to grow as a concern with 17.3% of high school students reporting current use of an e-cigarette. Among middle school students, 4.9% reported current tobacco use in 2017, with 2.5% reporting use of e-cigarettes. Six percent of middle school students also reported smoking or seeing another person smoking on school property, and 9.7% reported exposure to cigarette smoke on school property in the past week. Schools play a significant role in preventing youth initiation of tobacco use, and also in protecting youth from exposure. Strong tobacco-free school (TFS) policies prohibiting tobacco use by all persons, at all times, on all school property, and at all school events are one way school administrators can protect youth. Enforcement of strong TFS policies is also a vitally important strategy to decrease students' exposure to secondhand smoke. Research evidence shows adopting TFS policies and comprehensive tobacco control plans decreases and prevents youth smoking.

The SD Department of Health supported an evaluation of TFS policy in 2014, finding many school districts (75% of responding districts based on methodology in the 2014 report) already implemented a TFS policy. Public school districts were much more likely to have a policy in place compared to tribal and non-public districts. Many policies lacked in content, with a mean score of just 48.5% on policy comprehensiveness (based on methodology in the 2014 report). All participating school districts received individualized feedback on how to improve their policies, along with a resource sheet for prevention and cessation programs. The SD Department of Health also worked with the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD) to update the model TFS policy.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to repeat the assessment of K-12 TFS policies, to provide the current number and quality of TFS policies in existence in school districts throughout SD, and to determine if policies improved over time. Existing TFS policies and supporting materials in all SD school districts were collected and surveys of school superintendents were conducted to address the study purpose. Results are intended to aid in the development of school and community-based education efforts on the importance of strong TFS policies.
Methods

Participants
Study participants included 224 public, non-public, tribal, alternative and special population school districts in SD for the 2019 assessment. The 2014 study population used as a comparison in this report included 216 public, non-public and tribal school districts. Excluded educational entities in both years included education cooperatives and community support providers.

Instrument
The School Tobacco Policy Index was modified to conduct the assessment of TFS policy comprehensiveness.6 Substantial changes occurred to the assessment instrument to better align with known practices in tobacco use reduction. Specifically, tobacco-free environment items applied to all persons versus distinguishing between staff, students and visitors. Other items added as part of the tobacco-free environment list included prohibiting vaping products, additional enforcement items, personal vehicles on school grounds, cessation resources, policy review in the past five years, and items on policy communication.

Procedures
The final instrument included 34 components, each valued at one point (Appendix A). Higher scores on the assessment indicates a more comprehensive policy. Policies collected in the 2014 assessment were reviewed again in 2019 using the revised Tobacco-Free Policy Index tool to provide a comparative score to assess change over time.

A multi-level data collection method was used for this project. First, direct data collection procedures followed the contact scheme outlined in Appendix B. In brief, a letter of invitation with a request for TFS policy materials and a paper and pencil survey were mailed to each district superintendent. After 10 days, if policy materials were not received, a series of scripted phone calls and emails were conducted to prompt participation. A total of five attempts were made to collect policy information. In addition, an internet search was conducted to find any TFS policy or supporting materials (e.g., handbooks) for all school districts to include in the assessment. Materials from both the direct request and the internet search were combined. If a district had a TFS policy, the handbook materials were not included in the policy assessment process.

Once all materials were compiled from the districts, policy materials were de-identified to assure a blind review by the policy reviewers. The TFS policy for each school was assigned a random code, and all school identifiers were removed. Only selected study staff acquired access to the identified school materials. Two staff served as policy reviewers, along with an additional person who facilitated the policy evaluation process, including training sessions on the assessment instrument and the ASBSD Model Tobacco-Free School Policy. To establish the inter-rater reliability, every fifth district TFS policy was matched (both reviewers completed an assessment). Reviewers were not aware of which districts were matched reviews. Inter-rater reliability was tested using a two-way, mixed, absolute agreement, intra-class correlation (ICC). For overall score, an ICC co-efficient of 0.93 was achieved, indicating very high agreement between the reviewers. Subscale agreement between reviewers was also high, with single-measures ICC co-efficients ranging between 0.74 and 0.97. For districts selected as a matched review, a consensus score was determined between the two reviewers resulting in a single score for the district.

A tailored feedback report outlining the district’s TFS policy assessment results was provided to the district administrator by mail (see examples in Appendix C). Three versions of the feedback report
included: 1) A multi-year feedback report to districts who had a policy in both 2014 and 2019, 2) a single-year feedback report to districts who had a new policy or did not participate in 2014, and 3) a handbook-only report for the districts with materials not scored as a TFS policy. A flyer with local resources for TFS policy development, education, and cessation resources was also provided to all participating schools (Appendix D). A new model TFS policy was developed as part of this project (Appendix E) and sent with the feedback reports. The districts’ TFS policies, policy materials, and feedback reports were uploaded into the SD Department of Health’s Catalyst application within the Policy Monitoring section.

Data Analysis
Data analysis was conducted using IBM® SPSS Statistics Version 25. Descriptive statistics, ANOVA, and t-tests were utilized to compile data on tobacco-free policies, school type, geographic location, total scores and policy subscales. Paired sample t-tests were conducted to compare scores of districts with data available for both 2014 and 2019.

Results
Participants
Information on tobacco-free policy was found for 186 districts in 2019, for a response rate of 83% (Figure 1). Response rate varied by district type, with public schools having the highest response rate at 94.6% (n=141/149), followed by non-public at 62.0% (n=31/50) and tribal at 47.4% (n=9/19). Other school types had a response rate of 83.3% (n=5/6).

Among responding districts, 70.4% (n=131) provided a TFS policy, supporting materials (e.g., handbooks) were provided by 52 districts (28.0%) and three districts stated no policy existed. Existence of policy differed significantly by district type, with 82.3% of public-school districts and 83.3% of other districts (alternative and special population combined) having a TFS policy. Only 29.0% of non-public school districts and 22.2% of tribal districts provided a TFS policy.

Figure 1. Response Rates and Policy Prevalence by Project Year
**Overall Policy Scores**

Policy scores for districts with a TFS policy ranged from 0 to 34. Distribution of scores by year is shown in Figures 2 and 3. None of the district policies included all components of a comprehensive TFS policy in either year of the assessment.

**Figure 2. Distribution of Raw Overall Scores, 2014**

![Graph showing the distribution of raw overall scores in 2014]

**Figure 3. Distribution of Raw Overall Scores, 2019**

![Graph showing the distribution of raw overall scores in 2019]

**Comparison of Overall Results, 2014 and 2019**

In 2014, 173 (80%) districts agreed to participate and provided TFS policy materials. Of these, only 111 districts (64%) had a district-wide TFS policy. In 2019, 186 districts agreed to participate and provided TFS policy materials. Of these, 131 districts (70%) had a district-wide policy. Although the portion of the responding population with a policy is similar between the years, the raw number of policies gathered increased.

To assess change in policy comprehensiveness from 2014 to 2019, first district-wide policy existence was compared at the district level in each year. Among the 2019 year districts, six had a policy in 2014, but not in 2019. These six districts were excluded from the comparative analysis, leaving 131 districts with a district-wide TFS policy. Of these, 34 were new policies, representing 26% of the policies collected. Districts with new policies included those who had either not
participated in the past, or in the prior assessment had no policy or only handbook materials. New policies were also excluded from the comparative analysis.

A comparison was run on the remaining 97 districts with policies in both 2014 and 2019. Figure 4 shows that nearly half (44.3%) saw an improvement in overall score. Many, 40.2% of district policies were unchanged in the four-year period between assessments. Thirteen districts in the unchanged category received a lower score in 2019 than in 2014 due to a single assessment item measuring review in the last 5 years.

**Figure 4. Change in TFS Policy Comprehensiveness, 2014 to 2019**

The overall quality and comprehensiveness of TFS policies was examined by evaluating the mean percent of policy criteria addressed. The overall mean policy score was significantly higher in 2019 (49.7%) than in 2014 (42.2%; $Z = -2.90$, $p < 0.003$) (Table 1).

**Table 1. TFS Policy Scores Compared, 2014 and 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Districts with TFS Policy</th>
<th>Percentage Score (Mean (SD))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>42.2% (23.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>49.7% (23.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To explore whether there were changes in the pattern of scores between 2014 and 2019, a frequency table was created for five categories of scores: 0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, and 81-100% (Figure 5). Less than 10% of districts with TFS policies in each project year scored above 80%, indicating a comprehensive policy. Scores in 2019 were more frequently in the higher score categories than in 2014.

**Figure 5. Frequency Distribution Total Scores, 2014 and 2019**
**Assessment of Policy Components**

Scores for individual items on the assessment instrument are reported since each reflects a TFS policy component recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).\(^8\) Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9 list the 34 TFS policy components and the percent of district TFS policies in 2019 that addressed the item. Not one item was addressed by districts 100% of the time.

The first area of the assessment tool included items related to a tobacco-free environment. Very few TFS policies designated a tobacco use area on school grounds, with 95.4% not including statements about designated areas for use within the written policy. Prohibiting smoking for all persons (80.9%) and prohibiting use in school buildings were the other items most frequently included in policies. Very few TFS policies prohibited use in personal vehicles on school grounds (6.9%), and many (42.7%) did not prohibit tobacco use at school-sponsored events for all persons. Only 45.8% of the district policies were in effect at all times (24 hours/day). Policy statements prohibiting student possession of tobacco were found in 67.2% of policies. Less than half (46.6%) specifically prohibited use of e-cigarettes and other vaping products.

**Figure 6. Tobacco-Environment Subscale Item Frequency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prohibits for all persons...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.....in school buildings</td>
<td>80.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.....on school campus/grounds</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.....at school-sponsored events</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.....in school-owned or leased vehicles</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.....in personal vehicles on school grounds</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibits for all persons...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.....smoking</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.....tobacco use</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.....electronic cigarettes or other vaping products</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibits students from possessing tobacco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applies at all times (24 hours a day, 365 days a year)</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not designate an area for use</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifies products prohibited</td>
<td>95.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>77.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 2 of the policy assessment tool reviews enforcement. General enforcement for violations of the policy for students was addressed in 76.3% of policies, for staff in 65.6% of policies and for visitors in 64.9% of policies. However, fewer policies identified who is responsible for the enforcement at just 33.6% for students, 26.0% for staff, and 43.5% for visitors. Many policies only included punitive actions for violation with just 39.7% outlining education/cessation for students who violate policy and 31.3% for staff violations.

**Figure 7. Enforcement Subscale Item Frequency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENFORCEMENT FOR STUDENTS</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...general enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>76.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>....disciplinary action or consequences for violation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>68.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>......mention of cessation/education (not solely punitive)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>....designates individual for enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>....dress code prohibits tobacco product advertising</td>
<td></td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENFORCEMENT FOR STAFF</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...general enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>65.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>....disciplinary action or consequences for violation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>55.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>31.3%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>....designates individual for enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>....dress code prohibits tobacco product advertising</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENFORCEMENT FOR VISITORS</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...general enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>64.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>....specific consequences for violation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>51.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>....designates individual for enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prevention and treatment services is the focus of Section 3 of the assessment tool. Overall scores were very low, with just 12.2% of policies including cessation information for students and 19.8% for staff.

**Figure 8. Prevention and Treatment Services Subscale Item Frequency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service for Students</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentions general cessation</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes cessation interventions</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service for Staff</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentions general cessation</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes cessation interventions</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final scored section of the tool includes components of policy communication. Most policies (87.8%) provided a rationale for implementation. None of the policies indicated who was responsible to maintain the policy or who to contact with questions or concerns. Just over half (53.4%) had a revision date in the past five years.

**Figure 9. Policy Communication Subscale Item Frequency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Communication</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rationale</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual or office to maintain policy</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual or role with questions or concerns</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption/revision date within the last five years</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally, an additional unscored item, signage, was assessed to determine the portion of schools including this component in policies. Overall, just 21.4% included statements about signs posted informing students, staff and visitors of the policy.
Subscale scores for 2014 and 2019 were compared (Figure 10). All subscale scores increased in comprehensiveness between the time periods.

**Figure 10. TFS Policy Subscale Score Comparison, 2014 and 2019**

![Bar chart showing TFS Policy Subscale Score Comparison, 2014 and 2019](chart)

*Comparison of Results by District Type*
Policy scores in 2019 were examined by school district type. Only 15 districts not classified as public schools participated (nine non-public, two tribal/BIE, and four other district type). Therefore, all schools not classified as public were grouped as ‘all non-public’. In general, public school districts had more comprehensive policies than non-public school district types (Table 2).

**Table 2. Mean TFS Policy Comprehensiveness Score by District Type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Type*</th>
<th>Total Score Mean (SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public (n=116)</td>
<td>51.1% (23.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Non-Public (n=15)</td>
<td>38.6% (21.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (n=131)</td>
<td>49.7% (23.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No statistical significance was found between school district type and total 2019 percentage p=.053.

The four TFS policy subscale scores were compared by district type (public and all non-public). Scores improved between 2014 and 2019 for all sub-scales, with the exception of the enforcement scale for non-public districts (Figure 11). Non-public districts had higher prevention and treatment subscale scores than public districts in both years assessed. However, scores were low on this subscale across all districts.
Figure 11. TFS Policy Subscale, by District Type, 2014 and 2019

Tobacco-Free Environment

- Non-Public: 2014 - 52.2%, 2019 - 56.3%
- Public: 2014 - 66.2%, 2019 - 66.3%

Enforcement

- Non-Public: 2014 - 34.9%, 2019 - 35.6%
- Public: 2014 - 51.8%, 2019 - 51.8%

Prevention and Treatment Services

- Non-Public: 2014 - 18.8%, 2019 - 23.3%
- Public: 2014 - 12.9%, 2019 - 15.1%

Policy Communication

- Non-Public: 2014 - 27.5%, 2019 - 28.0%
- Public: 2014 - 35.9%, 2019 - 41.7%
**TFS Policy Scores by Population Density**

To explore whether rural geography had any impact on TFS policy existence or quality, districts were classified as rural or metropolitan, using a three-level classification by county core-based statistical areas of the United States Census Bureau including metropolitan (urban), micropolitan (rural) and non-core (frontier). Of participating schools, the prevalence of district-wide TFS policies was higher for urban districts (81.8%, n=36/44) than rural districts (60.5%, n=23/38) and frontier districts (69.2%, n=72/104). Urban districts had a higher mean score than rural or frontier districts (Table 3), but the difference was not statistically significant ($F(2,131) = 1.551, p = .216$).

For the policy subscales, no significant statistical difference was noted between population classifications and tobacco-free environment ($F(2,131) = 2.15, p = .121$), enforcement ($F(2,131) = 0.86, p = .424$), prevention/treatment services ($F(2,131) = 0.44, p = .643$), or policy communication ($F(2,131) = 1.18, p = .311$) subscales.

**Table 3. TFS Policy Total and Subscale Scores by Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean Total Score</th>
<th>Tobacco-Free Environment</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
<th>Prevention/Treatment Services</th>
<th>Policy Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban n = 36</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
<td>72.0%</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural n = 23</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontier n = 72</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TFS Policy Scores for Districts that Serve American Indian Students**

Forty SD public and nonpublic K-12 school districts are designated as serving a large population of American Indian (AI) students by the SD Department of Education. Eighteen of the 40 districts participated (Table 4). No statistical difference was found between total scores of districts serving AI students and those remaining ($F(1,130) = 179.29, p = .571$). TFS Policy subscale scores were also examined. No statistical difference between the two groups was found on the subscale scores.

**Table 4. TFS Policy Scores among Districts Serving AI Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
<th>Total Score Mean % (SD)</th>
<th>Tobacco-free Environment</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
<th>Prevention/Treatment Services</th>
<th>Policy Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Districts Serving AI</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>46.7% (25.9)</td>
<td>57.9% (32.5)</td>
<td>47.9% (33.2)</td>
<td>25.0% (35.4)</td>
<td>34.4% (21.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining Districts</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
<td>50.1% (23.2)</td>
<td>65.7% (26.2)</td>
<td>50.2% (32.4)</td>
<td>14.6% (28.1)</td>
<td>41.1% (17.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TFS Policy Scores by ASBSD Model Policy**

The ASBSD revised a model tobacco-free school policy in 2016 (see Appendix F). The reviewers for this project also scored the ASBSD model policy, determining a mean total score of 61.8% for the model policy. Subscale scores were lowest on the prevention and treatment services scale (0%) and
the policy communication scale (60.0%), and higher on the enforcement scale (69.2%) and tobacco-free environment scale (75.0%).

District policies were reviewed to assess the extent to which their tobacco-free policies were informed by the ASBSD model policy. Among those providing policies, 44.3% contained ASBSD model policy language. However, most had been modified from the ASBSD policy through added or deleted content, or revision to language. Most of those with ASBSD language were public districts (94.8%, n=55/58). Non-public schools made up a larger portion of districts not using ASBSD language, with public schools at 83.6% of that group (n=61/73).

Total scores for the 58 districts using components of the ASBSD model policy ranged from 50.0% to 91.2%, significantly higher than scores among those without ASBSD model policy components which ranged from 2.9% to 79.4% (F (1,130) =182.55, p = .000). Table 5 shows the total and subscale score differences by ASBSD model policy components. All subscale scores also differed significantly by the two groups.

**Table 5. TFS Policy Scores among Districts with Policies that Included ASBSD Model Policy Components**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASBSD Components Included</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Total Score Mean % (SD)</th>
<th>Tobacco-free Environment</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
<th>Prevention Treatment Services</th>
<th>Policy Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
<td>69.8% (9.5)</td>
<td>84.6% (7.5)</td>
<td>76.9% (14.8)</td>
<td>22.4% (32.7)</td>
<td>53.5% (9.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASBSD Components Not Included</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>33.7% (18.5)</td>
<td>48.7% (26.7)</td>
<td>28.4% (25.6)</td>
<td>11.0% (25.3)</td>
<td>29.6% (17.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TFS Policy Scores by 24/7 buildings and grounds policies**

The CDC advises on 24/7 buildings and grounds policies for all school districts. Compliance with this recommendation is assessed using six items on the assessment tool, including:

1.1 – Prohibits use in school buildings indoors for all persons
1.2 – Prohibits use on school campus/grounds (outdoors) for all persons
1.7 – Policy applies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (or at all times) for all persons
1.8 – Does not designate area for smoking/tobacco use
1.10 – Prohibits smoking for all persons
1.11 – Prohibits tobacco use for all persons

Only 57 of the 131 (43.5%) included all of the components part of a 24/7 buildings and grounds TFS policy. Overall scores were significantly higher among those with a 24/7 policy than those without at 66.6% and 36.6%, respectively (F (1,130) =182.55, p = .000). Table 6 shows the total and subscale score differences by 24/7 buildings and grounds policy. All subscale scores also differed significantly by the two groups.
Table 6. TFS Policy Scores among District’s with and without a 24/7 Buildings and Grounds Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Tobacco-free Environment</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
<th>Prevention Treatment Services</th>
<th>Policy Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/7 Buildings and Grounds Policy</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>66.6% (15.0)</td>
<td>83.9% (9.0)</td>
<td>71.8% (24.6)</td>
<td>21.9% (32.8)</td>
<td>47.0% (13.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a 24/7 Buildings and Grounds Policy</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>36.6% (20.4)</td>
<td>49.8% (27.2)</td>
<td>33.0% (27.1)</td>
<td>11.5% (25.6)</td>
<td>34.9% (20.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TFS Policy Scores by Community-School Coalition Areas
The SD Tobacco Control Program funded 14 coalitions in 2018-2019 to work on a variety of tobacco prevention and control topics with youth. Existence of policy and policy scores were examined for the counties with and without a funded coalition. Sixty-four districts were within a county with a funded coalition (28.1% of districts). Of these, 37 participated in the assessment. Mean policy scores for the counties with coalitions were 56.2% (20.4) compared to those without a coalition at 47.1% (24.2), a statistically significant difference (F (1,130) =4.081, p = .045). Examining subscale scores between the two groups, only the enforcement scale was significantly different, with districts in coalition areas having higher scores (F (1,130) =4.07, p = .046). Over half (51.4%) of districts in the coalition areas had a 24/7 buildings and grounds policy.

Table 7. TFS Policy Scores by Community-School Coalition Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Tobacco-free Environment</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
<th>Prevention Treatment Services</th>
<th>Policy Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Districts in Counties with a Coalition</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>56.2% (20.4)</td>
<td>71.0% (23.4)</td>
<td>58.8% (30.6)</td>
<td>17.6% (31.7)</td>
<td>44.9% (15.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts in Counties without a Coalition</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>47.1% (24.2)</td>
<td>62.2% (28.3)</td>
<td>46.3% (32.5)</td>
<td>15.4% (28.4)</td>
<td>38.3% (19.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS: Superintendent Survey

The superintendent survey was completed by 158 districts. Questions on the survey assessed a variety of tobacco prevention and control components including policy exclusions, enforcement concerns, vaping products, student education on tobacco use, and student groups aimed at preventing tobacco use (Appendix G).

**Policy Exclusions**
Two districts reported having a building or facility excluded from the TFS policy, noting the following:
- *Not expressly excluded, but policy only includes our property, and we utilize property owned by other entities.*
- *Inside = no tobacco; outside = ok (school grounds)*

Thirteen school districts (8.2%) reported a designated smoking area on school property. However, only one of the 13 districts noted the designated area in the written policy.

**Student Education**
Of the responding districts, 43 (27.2%) reported a specific student group focused on tobacco use prevention or education. A variety of student groups were listed including: D.A.R.E., FCCLA, Future Health Professionals, SADD, TATU, Student Council, SWAT, Red Ribbon Week, FCA, Unfiltered Reality, YLT, Tatin, Canli [Coalition], Students Against Destructive Decisions, 5th grade, and Sources of Strength. Tobacco prevention education was reportedly taught at 77.2% of school districts.

**Enforcement**
Superintendents were asked how students, staff and visitors are made aware of the tobacco policy. Frequency of response is shown in Figure 12 with student handbooks, staff handbooks and signs as the most common responses. Other write-in responses included *banners, floor mats, policy manuals,* and *student assembly.*

**Figure 12. Method of Policy Communication Reported by Superintendents**

![Method of Policy Communication Reported by Superintendents](chart)
Superintendents were asked to note level of difficulty in enforcing the TFS policy. Although many noted enforcement was not difficult (72.8%), a significant portion of the districts responding expressed enforcement as a concern, shown in Figure 13.

**Figure 13.** Superintendents’ View of Difficulty in Enforcing TFS Policy

Not at all difficult, 72.8%

Somewhat difficult, 25.9%

Very difficult, 1.3%

Superintendents were asked to describe any problems with enforcement, with 73 providing comment. Content of the comments fell into six themes with illustrative comments outlined in Table 8. The full list of comments is included in Appendix H.

**Table 8.** Superintendent’s Feedback on Enforcement Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Events and Activities         | • People walk outside and smoke at half-time of a game. We find cigarette butts near the entrance of our building.  
|                               | • The biggest problem we face enforcing the tobacco policy would be visitors smoking at the football field or in our parking lot.  
|                               | • The tobacco policy is sometimes difficult to enforce at special events. These special events are usually held here at the multipurpose center where our school is located. The OLC administration is aware.  |
| Vaping and E-cigarettes       | • Juuling has become somewhat of a problem to enforce as the devices are small and easy to use quickly. Also the smell is not always as noticeable as tobacco.  
|                               | • Present school year (2018/2019), students are more sneaky in high school (ex. bathrooms, classrooms) using Juul.  
|                               | • Vaping is becoming an epidemic at most schools and is hard to supervise and prevent.  |
| Smokeless Tobacco             | • Chewing tobacco very hard to identify/enforce.  
|                               | • Use of chewing tobacco inside and outside on school property.  
|                               | • Smoking is more visible, but chew is more difficult to catch because people hide the chew and we find pop cans/bottle to spit in. Hard to know it’s not just sunflower seeds.  |
| Vendors, Contractors and Visitors | • Contractors smoking while onsite.  
|                               | • Patrons not stepping off school property to use tobacco.  
<p>|                               | • Visitors smoking at football fields; visitors smoking at non-school-related summer baseball; visitors smoking at township place surrounding campus that have been abandoned and deeded to district.  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Parking Lots               | • Even with signs in the parking lot, we do have visitors and parents who will smoke in the parking lot prior to coming into the building.  
• In the parking lot, in their own vehicle, can be an issue.  
• Visitors smoking in Parking Lot during activities although we have no-smoking signs. |
| Parents, Students and Staff | • ADULTS THINKING THEY ARE ABOVE THE RULE.  
• Parents who come for daily pickup times and get out of their car smoking.  
• We have one staff member who "pushes the limits", also parents at games. |

Superintendents were asked to identify the number of student tobacco policy violations in the past year. Responses ranged from 0 to 90 (and one outlier at 500). Excluding the outlier, the mean number of violations reported across districts was 4.2 (SD 10.2). No violations were reported by 41.1% of responding superintendents. Districts were also asked if staff confiscate tobacco products found in student possession, with 89.9% responding they do confiscate. The number of products confiscated last year varied from 0 to 54, with the mean number across districts 3.4 (SD 8.6) products. Confiscating vaping products in student possession was also common with 84.2% indicating they do. The number of vaping products confiscated was much lower, ranging from 0 to 36, with a mean across districts of 1.7 (SD 4.5) products.

Staff violations were infrequent, with just 20.9% reporting violations. Of these, most had less than five staff violations in the last year. Visitor violations were also infrequent, with 36.7% reporting at least one violation. The mean number of visitor violations in the past year was 1.0 (SD 2.8).

**Vaping Products**

Written policy review found 61 districts (46.6%) of the 131 written policies reviewed specifically prohibited vaping products. Among the 154 superintendents who responded to this question, far more (n=124, 80.5%) indicated e-cigarettes are prohibited by school district policy (Figure 14).

**Figure 14.** Type of Policy that Prohibited Vaping Products
Superintendents were shown a photo of a JUUL® product and asked to name the product. Most (n=154) responded, with 68.2% identifying this as a vaping product. No districts reported contact from a tobacco company (including JUUL) offering educational or prevention programs.

**Figure 15.** Superintendents’ Identification of a JUUL Product Photo

---

**Discussion**

The purpose of this study was to provide an assessment of the number and quality of tobacco-free school (TFS) policies in existence in school districts throughout SD and compare these findings to previous findings from 2014 to determine the level of progress made over the past four years. Of the 186 districts that participated in 2019, 131 (70.4%) had a TFS policy. In 2014, only 111 districts (64.2%; n=111/173) had a district wide TFS policy. The comprehensiveness of TFS policies was also examined. Overall scores were significantly higher in 2019 at 49.7% compared to 2014 policies at 42.2%. A significant portion of districts (44.3%) made changes to strengthen their district TFS policy between the two time periods assessed.

The assessment instrument examined 34 specific policy criteria within four subscales: tobacco-free environment, enforcement, prevention and treatment services, and policy communication. These items consist of the TFS policy components recommended by the CDC to prevent youth tobacco use. The data identified both gaps and strengths in the content of TFS policies statewide. Not one item was addressed by districts 100% of the time. Overall, TFS policies were strong on the tobacco-free environment subscale. No designated area for tobacco use was the most common item (95.4% of policies). Rationale for implementation of policies (87.8%), policies prohibiting smoking (80.9%), and prohibiting use in buildings (80.2%) were the items most frequently found in policies. Identification of a person or role for questions or concerns about the TFS policy as well as to maintain policy, was not found in any of the TFS policies assessed. Additional uncommon items included cessation information and resources for students (12.2%) or for staff (19.8%). Prevention and treatment services was the lowest ranked subscale across all districts.

Characteristics of districts with TFS policy were examined to provide a foundation for future efforts. In general, public school districts had more comprehensive policies (51.1%) as compared to
non-public districts at 38.6%. A comparison of district policy by population density was also conducted. No differences were found by population between urban, rural or frontier areas. Finally, school district policies were reviewed among districts designated by the SD Department of Education as serving a large population of NA students, with no differences in scores found between these districts and the remaining districts.

The SD Department of Health worked on two specific methods of improving tobacco policy over the past years. First, work with the ASBSD resulted in a revised model policy. Unfortunately, key components are still missing in the approved model policy, with the model policy receiving an overall score of 61.8%. However, adoption of at least some components of the ASBSD policy was highly indicative of a more comprehensive policy. Among the districts with components of the ASBSD policy, overall scores were 69.8% (most made enhancements over the ASBSD model policy) compared to an overall score of just 33.7% among those without components of the ASBSD policy. A new model policy was developed by the SD Department of Health and provided to school districts in the feedback packets. Continued work to improve the ASBSD model policy would likely improve policy comprehensiveness across districts statewide.

Fourteen coalitions are funded by the SD Department of Health statewide to work on tobacco prevention and education, including TFS policy. A comparison was made between schools in a coalition area and those not covered by a coalition. Scores were significantly higher among districts in a county with a coalition at 56.2% compared to those without a coalition at 47.1%.

The superintendent survey provided insight on a few key policy areas. First, although the numbers were small, 13 district superintendents indicated a designated tobacco use area was present on school grounds. Designated smoking or tobacco use areas continue to promote use of tobacco, and lead to difficulty with enforcement of policy. Enforcement was a concern for 27.2% of superintendents surveyed, with vaping, spit tobacco use, and use by adults on grounds and at events frequently identified.

Less than half of the policies assessed (47%) specifically prohibited use of vaping products. However, superintendent surveys indicated that 80% banned vaping products. Furthermore, almost one-third (31.8%) of superintendents surveyed were not able to identify a photo of Juul® as a vaping product.
References


Appendix A: School Tobacco Policy Index

School Tobacco Policy Index
Revised 11-2-18

Policy: Yes ____ No ____

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Name:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Rater Initials:</th>
<th>OVERALL SCORE:</th>
<th>34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Section 1: Tobacco-Free Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>School buildings (indoors) for all persons</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Personal vehicles on school grounds</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Identifies products prohibited</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>School campus/grounds (outdoor) for all persons</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Possession for students</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Prohibits smoking for all persons</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>School-sponsored events for all persons</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Applies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (or at all times) for all persons</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Prohibits tobacco use for all persons</td>
<td>1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>School-owned or leased vehicles</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Does not designate area for smoking/tobacco use</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Prohibits the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (e.g., e-cigarettes) for all persons</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section 2: Enforcement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Visitors/Contractors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>General enforcement</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Disciplinary action or consequences for violation</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Mention of cessation and/or education not just punitive measures for violation</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Mention of cessation and/or education not just punitive measures for violation</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Designates individual(s) for enforcement</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>General enforcement</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Disciplinary action or consequences for violation</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Designates individual(s) for enforcement</td>
<td>2.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Specific consequences for violation</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section 3: Prevention and Treatment Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Mentions general cessation</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Mentions general cessation</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Includes cessation interventions</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Includes cessation interventions</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section 4: Policy Communication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Score</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>General communication of the policy</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Designates individual or office responsible for maintaining the policy</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Adoption or revision date within the last 5 years</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Rationale given (e.g., health consequences of tobacco use)</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>Designates individual or role for questions or concerns about policy</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section 5: Additional Item – No Points Assigned

| Yes No | Signage prohibiting tobacco use noted in policy | 5.1 |

### Recommendations

#### Tobacco-Free Environment:

#### Enforcement:

#### Prevention and Treatment Services:

#### Policy Communication:

#### Other notes:
**Appendix B: Contact Schema**

**DAY -10**
Pre-notification letters

**First Call:** DAY 0
Invitation to participate script with message

**Second Call:** DAY 7
Invitation to participate script with message

**First Email:** DAY 10
Invitation to participate email

**Third Call:** DAY 17
Invitation to participate script with message

**Final email:** DAY 20
Final invitation to participate email message

---

**Participating:**
Send Participating First Request email

**Refusal:** Mark in database; search for policy materials on district web page.

---

**Reminder Email:**
DAY 10 after consent

**Reminder Call 1:**
DAY 14 after consent

**Reminder Call 2:**
DAY 21 after consent

**Reminder Final Email:**
DAY 21 after consent

---

**Unable to Contact:**
Mark in database; search for policy materials on district web page.

---

**Participating:**
Materials not received after 10 days

---

**Materials not Received:**
Mark in database; search for policy materials on district web page.
Appendix C: Example School Feedback Reports

Tobacco-Free School Policy Evaluation
Example School District

Thank you for providing your district’s tobacco-free policy. A comprehensive tobacco-free policy is recommended for all schools to prevent initiation by youth and to protect from second-hand exposure.

Score Overview

The policy materials provided and found on your district’s website were reviewed using a policy assessment tool to examine key components of a comprehensive tobacco-free policy. The scores provided reflect the content included in your district’s policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco-Free Environment</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforcement</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention &amp; Treatment</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Communication</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Score over Time

2014: 71%
2019: 79%

Strengths

The current district-wide policy includes the following components that work to build a comprehensive tobacco-free policy:

- The policy prohibits all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, on all school property.
- The policy is in effect at all times (or 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).
- The policy includes a dress code for students and staff that prohibits wearing clothing or accessories promoting tobacco and vaping products.
- The policy was revised within the last 5 years

Recommendations

The following revisions will strengthen the current district-wide policy to better protect students, staff, and visitors from the adverse health effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke:

- Thank you for making a tobacco-free environment a priority for your district by adopting the Associated School Board of South Dakota’s (ASBSD) model tobacco-free school policy! The SD Department of Health contacted the ASBSD to update the policy document to include missing components of a comprehensive policy. If and when an updated policy is released, please update your policy to reflect the changes.

*Tobacco-free school policies provided in an assessment in 2014 were reviewed for the purpose of this project.
Tobacco-Free School Policy Evaluation
Example School District

Thank you for providing your district’s tobacco-free policy. A comprehensive tobacco-free policy is recommended for all schools to prevent initiation by youth and to protect from second-hand exposure.

Score Overview

The policy materials provided and found on your district’s website were reviewed using a policy assessment tool to examine key components of a comprehensive tobacco-free policy. The scores provided reflect the content included in your district’s policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Scores</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Tobacco-Free Environment</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
<th>Prevention &amp; Treatment</th>
<th>Policy Communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strengths

The current district-wide policy includes the following components that work to build a comprehensive tobacco-free policy:

- The policy applies to all persons (e.g., students, staff and visitors).
- The policy prohibits possession of tobacco products by students.
- The policy does not allow for a smoking area on school grounds or property.
- The policy includes a dress code for students and staff that prohibits wearing clothing or accessories promoting tobacco and vaping products.
- The document clearly indicates how the policy is communicated to students, staff, and visitors such as handbooks, signage, other published materials, or public announcements.

Recommendations

The following revisions will strengthen the current district-wide policy to better protect students, staff, and visitors from the adverse health effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke.

- Thank you for making a tobacco-free environment a priority for your district by adopting the Associated School Board of South Dakota’s (ASBSD) model tobacco-free school policy. The SD Department of Health contacted the ASBSD to update the policy document to include missing components of a comprehensive policy. If and when an updated policy is released, please update your policy to reflect the changes.
Tobacco-Free School Policy Evaluation
Example School District

Thank you for providing your district’s tobacco-free guidelines. A comprehensive tobacco-free policy is recommended for all schools to prevent initiation by youth and to protect from second-hand exposure. Consider adapting the information provided into a formal district-wide policy.

Score Overview
The materials provided were reviewed using a policy assessment tool to examine key components of a comprehensive tobacco-free policy. The tool is designed to assess formal policy. The scores provided reflect the content included in your district’s guidelines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco-Free Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention &amp; Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strengths
The guidelines include the following components to include in a comprehensive tobacco-free policy:

- The policy prohibits possession of tobacco products by students.
- The policy does not allow for a smoking area on school grounds or property.

Recommendations
In creating a comprehensive district-wide tobacco-free policy, we specifically recommend including the following items that were not present in the guidelines reviewed for your district:

- Applies to students, staff, and visitors.
- Prohibits tobacco use indoors, outdoors, and at all school sponsored activities.
- Is in effect at all times for all persons.
- Prohibits all types of tobacco use, including vaping products.
- Includes enforcement guidelines and consequences for use for students, staff and visitors/contractors.

Thank you for participating in the Tobacco-Free School Policy assessment conducted by the South Dakota Department of Health and the Population Health Evaluation Center at South Dakota State University. This information is provided solely as a resource. Technical assistance is available on a voluntary basis from the SD Tobacco Control Program. For a copy of the full report, or assistance in developing and implementing an effective policy contact the Tobacco Control Program at 605-773-3737.
Appendix D: Resource Flyer

**TAKE ACTION**

Healthcare providers are key to cessation efforts and the improvement of outcomes for tobacco users.

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**5 ways to take action!**

Research shows that when providers are involved in helping patients quit, patient success increases substantially.

1. **Ask, Advise, Refer**
   - Ask: Simply ask the questions. Do you use tobacco? Would you like to quit?
   - Advise: Offer help. Half of the people who try to quit tobacco fail because the help they need is not received.
   - Refer: Make the appropriate referral. Tools are available to those who are ready to quit and for those who aren’t. Patients can call the South Dakota QuitLine at 1-866-SD QUILTS (1-866-737-8487) or visit the website at SDQuitLine.com. Healthcare providers can send a fax or electronic health record referral. The referral form is available at SDQuitLine.com/Providers.

2. **Get Trained**
   - The South Dakota QuitLine offers training on a number of topics that can be helpful to health professionals who interact with tobacco users. Visit SDQuitLine.com/Training to learn more.

3. **Make Cessation a Priority**
   - Don’t allow a tobacco user to miss out on a quit attempt. To help make cessation a priority and institutionalize the Ask, Advise, Refer protocol, download the Healthcare System Strategies for Tobacco Cessation document at GoodandHealthySD.org/healthcare/practice-guidelines.

4. **Implement Policy**
   - Policies are an effective way to make environmental and individual changes. To access the Healthcare System Model Policy, visit GoodandHealthySD.org/healthcare/practice-guidelines.

5. **Promote the South Dakota QuitLine**
   - Free South Dakota QuitLine materials, including posters, magnets, brochures, business cards, and more, are available at the SD Department of Health website at DOH.SD.gov/catalog.

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For questions or technical assistance with any of these strategies, please contact Kayla Magee, Statewide Cessation Coordinator at 605-494-3616 or kmagee@tie.net.
Appendix E: SD Department of Health Model Tobacco-Free School Policy

MODEL TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICY

Rationale
The [District Name] District is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for students, staff and citizens. The [Name] School Board acknowledges that adult staff and visitors serve as role models for students and embraces its obligation to provide learning and working environments that are safe, healthy and free from unwanted smoke and tobacco use on all district property and during all school-sponsored activities.

The policy set forth below is effective [Date].

Tobacco-Free Environment
The [District Name] buildings and grounds are 100% tobacco-free at all times, for all persons, without exception. Use of any type of tobacco is prohibited on or in district parking lots, in district owned vehicles or in any personal vehicles on the [District Name] property. All persons are prohibited from using tobacco at school-sponsored activities off school district property, which may occur either before, during or after regular school hours. Students are also prohibited from possessing any type of tobacco. Students and staff are prohibited from promoting tobacco through the use or display of tobacco-related materials such as clothing, hats, backpacks and other items promoting tobacco or vaping products.

For the purposes of this policy, tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, cigars, hookah, snuff, dissolvable tobacco or chewing tobacco, as well as unregulated nicotine products such as electronic cigarettes and other vaping devices, which may or may not contain tobacco.

Enforcement and Cessation
District administration, including school superintendent and principal(s), will oversee the enforcement of this policy for all persons. Tobacco or vaping products found in student possession will be confiscated. Students who violate this policy will be encouraged to quit and provided information on cessation, including the SD QuitLine [1-866-737-8487]. Student violations may also result in, at the discretion of school administration: parent/guardian notification, a written assignment on the dangers of tobacco and nicotine use, participation in a tobacco education and/or cessation program, suspension or ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities, community service or notification of law enforcement.

[District Name] employees in violation of this policy will be encouraged to quit and provided information on cessation, including the SD QuitLine [1-866-737-8487]. Employees may also be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to [District Name] policy. Visitors in violation of this policy will be asked to comply, and if necessary, be subject to appropriate consequences, which may include being directed to leave school property.

Policy Communication
The superintendent shall provide public notification of the district's policy through appropriate means, such as signs posted on the perimeter of the property, at entrances and other prominent places, student and staff handbooks and public announcement at school events. The [District Name] School Board or designee is responsible for regular review of this policy and its procedures. The School Board is responsible for the approval of this policy. The Board or school administrator will be available to address questions and concerns regarding this policy.
Appendix F: Associated School Board of South Dakota Model Tobacco-free School Policy

Policy: TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS

The District recognizes its duty to promote the health and safety of students, staff and citizens on district property and during school-sponsored activities. In accordance with this responsibility, it is the intent of the School Board to establish a tobacco-free school environment that demonstrates a commitment to helping students resist tobacco use and that emphasizes the importance of adult role modeling.

The use, possession, or promotion of tobacco on school property by students, employees, vendors, visitors and invitees is prohibited. Students and employees are also prohibited from using or promoting tobacco at school-sponsored activities off school property. Students participating in school activities are also subject to such rules as may exist pursuant to an applicable activity code of conduct.

For the purposes of this policy:

1. "Tobacco" means any substance or item, in any form, containing tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery devices (e-cigarettes), which may not contain tobacco;
2. "School property" means all district-owned, rented or leased buildings, grounds and vehicles;
3. "School-sponsored activity" means any planned, organized, endorsed, or supervised activity involving district students or staff that occurs either before, during or after regular school hours;
4. "Promotion" means the use or display of tobacco-related clothing, bags, lighters, or other material that is designed to encourage the acceptance or use of tobacco.

* A student in violation of this policy, first offense, shall be required to complete a written assignment. The assignment is for the purpose of helping the student understand the consequences of tobacco use. It shall be given to the building principal or principal's designee, will be grade appropriate for purposes of length and content, and may include, but is not limited to, research on South Dakota Quitline. Students violating this policy on subsequent occasion(s) shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to district policy.

District employees in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. Visitors, vendors and invitees in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate consequences, which may include being directed to leave school property.

The superintendent shall provide reasonable public notification of the district’s policy within student and staff handbooks.

Notes: A school district may prefer to use the following paragraph related to student discipline as it authorizes but does not require the administration to assign a written assignment.

* Students violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to district policy. A student in violation of this policy may also be required to complete a written assignment. The assignment is for the purpose of helping the student understand the consequences of tobacco use. It shall be given to the building principal or principal’s designee, will be grade appropriate for purposes of length and content, and may include, but is not limited to, research on South Dakota Quitline.

ASBSD sample policies are intended to be a guide for school districts. As is the case with any policy, a local school district's unique circumstances, challenges and opportunities need to be considered.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDCL 13-6-39</td>
<td>Management of schools by board - general powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDCL 34-46-14</td>
<td>Smoking in public or place of employment prohibited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix G: Superintendent Tobacco-free Policy Survey

School Tobacco-Free Policy Survey

Please complete the below questions regarding your district’s tobacco-free policy and practices. If you are unable to respond to a specific question, please feel free to refer the survey to other staff at your school sites. If you have any questions about this survey, contact Callie Molengraaf, Project Coordinator, at callie.molengraaf@sdstate.edu, or by phone at (605) 688-6412.

1. Are any school buildings or other school owned facilities excluded from your district’s tobacco use policy?
   - No
   - Yes, please clarify: ______________________________________________________
     ______________________________________________________

2. How are students, staff, visitors and contractors made aware of the tobacco policy:
   - Student handbook
   - Employee handbook
   - Contracts
   - Signs
   - Staff meetings
   - Written information
   - Announcements at school events
   - School website
   - Other: ______________________________
     ______________________________

3. Do you have a designated smoking area on school property?
   - No
   - Yes

4. How difficult is it to enforce your school tobacco free policy?
   - Not at all difficult
   - Somewhat difficult
   - Very difficult

5. Describe any problems your district faces in enforcing the current tobacco policy (e.g., visitors smoking at football field).
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________

6. Does your district have any organized student groups focused on tobacco use prevention or education?
   - No
   - Yes. What is the name of the group(s)?
     _______________________________________________________________________

SURVEY CONTINUED ON BACK OF SHEET
7. Are e-cigarettes prohibited by school district policy?
   - No
   - Yes, in our school's tobacco/smoke-free policy.
   - Yes, in our school's drug free policy.
   - Yes, in both the school's tobacco/smoke-free policy and drug free policy.

8. What is the name of the product on the right?
   ________________________________
   - Don’t know

9. Is tobacco-prevention education taught in the school district?
   - No
   - Yes. Which grades? ________________________________
   ________________________________

10. Have you or any other school representative been contacted by a tobacco company (e.g., Phillip Morris, Juul®, Blu®) offering educational or prevention programs and/or materials to your school(s)?
    - No
    - Yes. Which month/year were you contacted? ________________________________

11. Please estimate the number of tobacco policy violations your district had in the 2017-2018 school year:
    a. Students: _________________
    b. Staff: _________________
    c. Visitors/Contractors: ______________

12. Do school staff confiscate tobacco products found in students’ possession?
    - No
    - Yes, estimated number confiscated last year (2017-2018 school year): ______________

13. Do school staff confiscate vaping products (e.g., electronic cigarettes) found in students’ possession?
    - No
    - Yes, estimated number confiscated last year (2017-2018 school year): ______________

Thank you for completing the survey!
### Appendix H: Survey Comments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Events and Activities** | • Adult smokers have periodically left an athletic facility to smoke a cigarette.  
• Adults smoking outside of district facilities during sporting events or non-school sponsored activities.  
• Biggest issue is at events during the winter. people leave the event at halftime then return.  
• Events are the most difficult with spectators trying to smoke.  
• Football field is on property owned by the town so some people feel they can smoke at FB games.  
• Football field smoking during games.  
• Large campus with many community events.  
• Our football field is not owned by the school.  
• Outdoor party events.  
• People walk outside and smoke at half-time of a game. We find cigarette butts near the entrance of our building.  
• Adult visitors at outdoor events (ex. cigarette smoking), but behavior is not caught  
• Smoking at football field.  
• The biggest problem we face enforcing the tobacco policy would be visitors smoking at the football field or in our parking lot.  
• The only issues we have are with visitors when they attend our home events  
• The tobacco policy is sometimes difficult to enforce at special events. These special events are usually held here at the multipurpose center where our school is located. The OLC administration is aware.  
• Smoking in vehicles at FB games.  
• Visitor at outdoor events.  
• Visitors smoking around athletic events; large campus.  
• Visitors smoking at city-owned facility that is used for school events (Outside designated area)  
• Visitors smoking at FB field or outside gyms  
• Visitors smoking at indoor and outdoor sporting events.  
• We have a yearly powwow with visitors from around the US & Germany. We see some difficulties during that event. Otherwise, it's not a problem.  
• We play our football games at another facility. The biggest problem is that we allow people to smoke outside at events.  
• We sometimes have visitors or hunters show up at a football game smoking in the parking lot, but they extinguish the cigarette before entering the game. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Vaping and E-cigarettes** | • *E-cigarettes are sometimes a problem at football games.*  
• *Juuling has become somewhat of a problem to enforce as the devices are small and easy to use quickly. Also, the smell is not always as noticeable as tobacco.*  
• *More education to students, parents and school personnel on e-cigs, vaping etc.*  
• *New forms of Nicotine administration constantly coming out. Vaping, etc.*  
• *Present school year (2018/2019), students are more sneaky in high school (ex. bathrooms, classrooms) using Juul.*  
• *The big problem we are seeing is vaping/Juul. I know it’s not tobacco but it is still an issue.*  
• *The biggest challenge is visitors to our campus, vaping, juuling, and the national guard weekend drills. The guard has been cooperative in trying to address this and it has been much improved.*  
• *Hard to catch students that are vaping or juuling.*  
• *Juuling.*  
• *Vape!*  
• *Vaping is becoming an epidemic at most schools and is hard to supervise and prevent.*  
• *Vaping (x2)*  
• *Use of vape products*  |
| **Smokeless Tobacco**      | • *CHEWING TOBACCO IS MUCH MORE DIFF. TO DETECT*  
• *Adult attending events with chew in their mouths.*  
• *Adults using chewing tobacco on premises.*  
• *Any concerns at outdoor events would be related to smokeless tobacco.*  
• *Chewing tobacco very hard to identify/enforce.*  
• *I think that chewing tobacco is more difficult to enforce than smoking.*  
• *Smokeless tobacco at school activities.*  
• *Smokeless tobacco is the biggest problem by adults.*  
• *Chewing*  
• *Use of chewing tobacco inside and outside on school property.*  
• *Smoking is more visible, but chew is more difficult to catch because people hide the chew and we find pop cans/bottle to spit in. Hard to know it’s not just sunflower seeds.*  
• *We have problems with chewing tobacco.* |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Vendors, Contractors and Visitors | • Adults using tobacco outside on school property.  
• Community members or visitors at school or athletic events.  
• Community people may contact students to sell cigarettes to our students.  
• Contractors smoking while onsite.  
• Contractors working for the district on district own property.  
• Elders visiting, bus drivers in the bus garage.  
• Monitoring visitors during activities is a challenge.  
• Mostly visitors that come on school groups, but not in buildings.  
• Occasionally we need to remind outside vendors of our policies.  
• Our biggest issue is with just reminding visitors of no tobacco at events outside.  
• Contractors and subcontractors.  
• Outside service agencies sometimes bring employees that don’t follow or are unaware of our tobacco free policy.  
• Patrons not stepping off school property to use tobacco.  
• The only incident we have ever had of someone smoking on site was with a construction worker, and children were not on-site. We reminded him we’re a school and he immediately stopped.  
• Visitors may not always have tobacco free.  
• Visitors smoking at ball games.  
• Visitors smoking at football fields; visitors smoking at non-school-related summer baseball; visitors smoking at township place surrounding campus that have been abandoned and deeded to district.  
• Visitors smoking in front of the armory. |
| Parking Lots                   | • Even with signs in the parking lot, we do have visitors and parents who will smoke in the parking lot prior to coming into the building.  
• Football field parking lot--usually visiting team.  
• In the parking lot, in their own vehicle, can be an issue.  
• Parking lot.  
• Smoking in parking lots at halftime between games.  
• Visitors smoking in parking lots.  
• Visitors smoking in parking lot during activities although we have no-smoking signs. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents, Students and Staff</td>
<td>• ADULTS THINKING THEY ARE ABOVE THE RULE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Parents who come for daily pickup times and get out of their car smoking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Some parents choose to ignore signs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Staff have attempted to walk around the block into the neighborhood but have been given feedback—we also have a closed campus for school personnel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Staff who smoke must leave the property. Sometimes I think that makes it more visible as they are in a public space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• We have one staff member who “pushes the limits” also parents at games.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>