



## Comprehensive Tobacco-Free School Policy: Why It Matters

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The American Lung Association of Oregon, the Oregon Public Health Division Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP), and the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) have worked 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 analyzes and provides feedback on district policies submitted, maintains a statewide database with details of these policies, and orders tobacco-free banners and signs for districts with tobacco-free policies.

Contact the American Lung Association of Oregon to learn more about your school district’s current tobacco policy or to order tobacco-free signs or banners:

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