



Greetings:

Attached, you will find a form to use in assessing Tobacco-Free School policies, and instructions for using the form. Based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Guidelines for Tobacco Use Prevention through Schools*, the assessment form is a tool to help you analyze components of school tobacco policies. The use of this "checklist" will help standardize the assessment of tobacco-free school policies and will help you identify potential policy components that may not yet be addressed in a given policy.

Using this tool, you will be working to promote comprehensive tobacco-free school policies and thereby improve the health and well-being of everyone on a school campus.

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States.¹ The consequences for young people are profound, and pose risks to health, academic achievement, and overall wellbeing. Schools are in a unique position to deliver a strong anti-tobacco message to their students. And, through clear messages, strong policies, and high caliber health education, schools can contribute to a young person's decision not to use tobacco.

We are grateful to the Tobacco Use Prevention Program in Georgia, which is responsible for leading the effort to distill the information from the CDC *Guidelines for Tobacco Use Prevention through Schools*, as well as other sources, into this very concise and user-friendly document. The Tobacco Use Prevention Program has been more than willing to share their expertise with the National Consortium on Tobacco Use Prevention through Schools.

We encourage you to use this tool by obtaining your school district's policy and measuring it against the provisions outlined here. If you have any questions about the tool, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Lewis at the National School Boards Association at klewis@nsba.org. We encourage you to share this resource with colleagues, as well.

Sincerely,

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¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Targeting Tobacco Use: The Nation's Leading Cause of Death (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, 2006).