

# Understanding Tobacco Laws

## An Overview for Maine Schools

The implementation of a smoke and tobacco-free policy is an evidence-based approach to:

Reduce exposure to secondhand smoke



Reduce the prevalence of tobacco use



Increase the number of tobacco users who quit



Reduce the initiation of tobacco use among young people



Reduce tobacco-related morbidity and mortality, including acute cardiovascular events



Maine's tobacco laws provide a framework for schools to build from.

## Tobacco Use in Elementary and Secondary Schools Prohibited

Title 22, Chapter 263 §1578-B

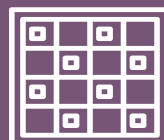


Prohibits tobacco use and possession of tobacco products or accessories

Applies to all students, staff, parents and community members



Includes all times in the buildings or on the grounds of any public school, on a school bus and at any school-sponsored event



# Smoking in Vehicles When Minor Under 16 Years of Age is Present

Title 29-A, Chapter 19 §2120

Smoking is prohibited in a motor vehicle by the operator or passengers when a person who has not reached 16 years old is present in that motor vehicle, regardless of whether the motor vehicle's windows are open.



## Tobacco 21 - Retail Tobacco Sales



Federal law restricts tobacco product sales so that a person may not sell, furnish, give away a tobacco product to any person under 21 years of age.

Maine law no longer penalizes tobacco possession by a minor. Removing penalties associated with youth possession is also an evidence-based strategy to focus punitive aspects on those who provide youth with the products.

The MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence maintains different levels of policies for schools rating along a spectrum of "Good/Better/Best" in terms of comprehensiveness.



Get more information and policy change assistance at [CTIMaine.org/Resources](https://CTIMaine.org/Resources)



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