Achievement and Absenteeism

A 100% Tobacco Free School policy prohibits any tobacco, including alternative nicotine products or vapor products as defined by KRS 438.305, use by staff, students and visitors twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, inside Board-owned buildings or vehicles, on school owned property, and during school-sponsored student trips and activities.

Student Health

- Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.[1] A strongly-enforced tobacco free school policy can prevent or delay students from using tobacco.[2,3] Some studies have found up to a 30% reduction in student smoking.[4]
- Asthma is a leading cause of school absenteeism. Exposure to secondhand smoke is one of the leading triggers of asthma attacks.[5]
- Youth who smoke report more respiratory problems and illness than their non-smoking peers.[6]

Student Academic Achievement

- Students who use tobacco or are exposed to environmental tobacco smoke perform more poorly on cognitive tests compared to students not exposed to tobacco.[7]
- Students who smoke perform more poorly in school compared to their non-smoking peers.[8,9,10]
- Students who smoke have more school absences than their non-smoking peers.[11]

Employee Health and Performance

- Employees who currently use tobacco have greater rates of absenteeism than never-smokers and former smokers.[12,13] Furthermore, absences may increase with the number of cigarettes smoked per day.[14]
- Reduced employee exposure to secondhand smoke, which has been determined to be unsafe in any amount.[15]

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[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Effectiveness of School-Based Programs as a Component of a Statewide Tobacco Control Initiative – Oregon, 1999-2000. *MMWR* 2001;50: 663-6.

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Tobacco 100% Free Schools