
LOUISIANA SMOKE-FREE AIR ACT

How does it affect my school?

What is the Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act?

The Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act (Act 815) is a statewide law that prohibits smoking in most workplaces and public places, including primary and secondary (Pre-K through 12th grade) schools.



What does this mean for my school?

Schools in Louisiana with grades Pre-K through 12th must prohibit smoking within all school buildings, school grounds (including outdoors and off campus school activities), school property and school buses. Policies of this sort are generally referred to as 100% smoke-free policies.

When does The Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act become law?

Beginning January 1, 2007, all schools with grades Pre-K through 12th in Louisiana must become 100% smoke-free.

What should I do to ensure that my school obeys the new law?

- Remove ALL ashtrays from the school grounds
- Clearly display “No Smoking” signs or the international “No Smoking Symbol” within the school and grounds

Can I get in trouble if my school does not follow the law?

Yes. There are fines for both smokers and business owners who break the law.

Fines for Individuals caught smoking: First offense is \$25, second offense is \$50 and third or subsequent offense is \$100. **Fines for Employers/business owners:** First offense is \$100; second offense is \$250 and third offense being \$500.

Why are 100% smoke-free school policies good for all Louisiana students?

- 9,000 kids under age 18 become new daily smokers each year
- 107,900 kids now under age 18 will die prematurely from smoking (which is the approximate size of Lafayette, the fourth largest city in Louisiana)
- 14.2 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by Louisiana youth each year

LOUISIANA STRENGTHENS STATEWIDE SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

What are the benefits of 100% smoke-free schools?

- 100% smoke-free policies decrease the number of cigarettes smoked, change social and cultural norms
- They provide safe environments for students by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke
- They support prevention messages delivered in classrooms by sending clear, consistent messages regarding tobacco use
- They provide positive role modeling by adult employees and visitors
- They prepare students for the reality of smoke-free workplaces and communities

What is the best way for my school to enforce the new 100% smoke-free policy required by The Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act?

- Communicate the policy should be positive and emphasize the fact that tobacco-free lifestyles are in the best educational, health, and social interests of all
- Enforce the policy by asking all school staff to assist with compliance across the board.
- Designate one person from school to oversee compliance with the 100% smoke-free policy, such as the principal, assistant principal, health teacher or school nurse
- Schools should develop an enforcement plan that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 1. Strategies to communicate the plan to students, staff, visitors and parents
 2. Consequences for violation of the 100% smoke-free school policy
 3. Individuals who will be responsible for monitoring and enforcement
 4. Process for the handling of complaints and issues
 5. All areas of the school campus that will be monitored

Are there FREE services to help someone who wants to quit?

If you or a loved one is ready to quit, call the toll-free Louisiana Tobacco Quitline, 1-800-QUIT-NOW. This number is available for anyone 13 years or older at no cost 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Confidential telephone counseling is available or for information about other services visit our website at www.mytfl.org.



For more information:

Call: 1-866-1-AM-4-TFL

(1-866-426-4835)

Visit: www.tobaccofreeliving.org

or www.myTFL.com



Data Sources:

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, www.tobaccofreekids.org, The Toll of Tobacco on Louisiana, 2005 and North Carolina Tobacco Free Schools website, www.nctobaccofreeschools.com