

## Dothan City Schools Tobacco-Free Environment

The Board of Education is dedicated to providing a healthful, comfortable, and productive work environment for its employees.

The United States Surgeon General, in a 1986 report *The Health Effects of Involuntary Smoking*; concluded that:

- Involuntary smoking is a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in healthy non-smokers.
- The simple separation of smokers and non-smokers within the same air space may reduce, but does not eliminate the exposure of non-smokers to environmental tobacco smoke.

In light of these findings, Board of Education facilities shall be entirely tobacco-free, effective July 1, 1995.

The use of any tobacco products will be strictly prohibited within all schools and other buildings owned by the Board of Education including: offices, hallways, waiting rooms, restrooms, lunchrooms, elevators, meeting rooms, and all community areas. This policy applies to all employees, students, salespersons, and visitors. Principals may designate an area outside the school building and adjacent to the school campus where employees may smoke out of view of students.

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all employees. "No Smoking" signs shall be posted at all building entrances and throughout each building.

The success of this policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers. All employees share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing the policy. Any problems should be brought to the attention of the principal or superintendent and handled through the normal chain of command.

Employees who violate this policy will be subject to the same disciplinary actions that accompany infractions of other Board of Education policies.

Adopted by the Board of Education June 20, 1995

### **Fines for unlawful possession of contraband**

**Any tobacco or tobacco product found in the possession of a minor is contraband and subject to seizure by law enforcement. Any minor violating Section 28-11-13 shall be issued a citation similar to a uniform nontraffic citation and shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50) for each violation. The minor shall not be required to pay any other court costs or fees. Any statute or law to the contrary notwithstanding, disposition of any violation shall be within the jurisdiction of the district or municipal court and not the juvenile court. Violations shall not be considered criminal offenses and shall be administratively adjudicated by the district or Municipal Court. (Acts 1997, No. 97-423, p. 721, 14)**