

Dear Franklin County Families,

As part of our ongoing commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of our students, Franklin County Schools has recently updated our Tobacco-Free Schools policy. Through a grant-funded partnership with the FC Prevention Coalition, we are shifting our approach to address nicotine use not just as a disciplinary issue, but as a serious health concern that requires education and support.

We have put together a short video featuring our district's Coordinated School Health Director, Chris Hawkersmith, and Felicia Kelsey from the FC Prevention Coalition to explain what these changes mean for our community. [Click here to watch the video!](#)

Key Highlights of the Updated Policy:

- **100% Tobacco-Free Campuses:** The use, promotion, or sale of any tobacco product, including electronic smoking devices and vapor products, is strictly prohibited by students, staff, and visitors.
- **All-Encompassing Rule:** This ban applies to all district-owned properties, leased vehicles, and any school- or district-sponsored event, whether on or off-campus.
- **New Tiered Interventions:** Effective for the 2026-2027 school year, middle and high schools will utilize a Progressive Tobacco Intervention Procedure.
- **Focus on Cessation:** Disciplinary steps will now mandate participation in the INDEPTH nicotine dependence intervention program, which includes a 4-hour Saturday class.
- **Required Parent Involvement:** Parents or guardians are required to attend at least a portion of the INDEPTH Saturday classes with their student depending on the offense tier.
- **Community Support:** Students facing multiple offenses will have access to dedicated tobacco classes, student support counseling, and quit kits provided by the FC Prevention Coalition.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping us build a safe, healthy, and thriving environment for all Franklin County students.