



Petition in Support of 100% Tobacco-Free Schools



WHY SHOULD ALL NC SCHOOLS ADOPT A 100% TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICY?

- Over **one-fourth** of North Carolina's high school students currently use tobacco products — a rate significantly higher than the national average. Those North Carolina students who try tobacco products usually start around age 12.
- **Permitting tobacco** on school campus means:
 - kids will breathe secondhand smoke;
 - the prevention messages learned in the classroom will be contradicted elsewhere on campus;
 - children will see their adult role models engaging in an unhealthy behavior;
 - kids are more likely to see tobacco use is normal and acceptable behavior;and
 - youth **access** to tobacco products is increased.
- Each year, the **equivalent of 950 classrooms** of NC students will become tobacco users.

Research shows tobacco use rates among youth are 11% lower in schools that have a consistently enforced 100% tobacco free school policy — one that bans all tobacco use on school campus, in school vehicles, and at school events, by everyone and at all times. (Wakefield, Chaloupka, Kaufman et al. Effects of restrictions on smoking at home, at school, and in public places on teenage smoking: Cross sectional study. BMJ 2000; 321:333-7)

**Over half of North Carolina
school districts have this policy.
Isn't it time *all* NC school districts are
100% TOBACCO-FREE?**