

Date: September 8, 2016

Dear Superintendent and all school personnel:

Congratulations on your school district adopting the 100% Tobacco Free Schools (TFS) Policy. Our new baseline for adopted policies is 116 out of 181 school districts and counting. Approximately 1,446,459 youth are protected by a policy that eliminates tobacco use and exposure to the dangers of secondhand smoke. Having these protective policies in 116 school districts and 4 charter schools is a major milestone, and we know your partnership has been instrumental to our success.

All school administrators, teachers and staff play a major role in applying the policy with fidelity. To help train all staff on how to apply this policy on your campuses, we have developed a training webinar. This 15 minute webinar provides information on signage; recommended protocol for students, athletes, visitors, and staff; sample statements to use in applying the policy on your campuses; information around electronic cigarettes and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS); and information on the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line, a free evidenced based tobacco cessation telephone counseling program.

The webinar and the evaluation link can be accessed at any time on our website at <http://dph.georgia.gov/schools>. We hope this webinar will help you and your staff members learn how to apply the current TFS policy with fidelity to ensure all students, staff and visitors are learning, growing, and enjoying school activities in a tobacco free campus.

Thank you for your partnership and we look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding enforcing the TFS policy please contact, Anne-Marie Coleman, Youth Tobacco Coordinator, at (Anne-Marie.Coleman@dph.ga.gov) or 404-657-6946.

Sincerely,



Jean O'Connor, JD, MPH, DrPH
Chronic Disease Prevention Director
Georgia Department of Public Health

