523. TOBACCO USE

1. Purpose
   The Joint Operating Committee recognizes that tobacco use during school hours and on school property presents a health and safety hazard which can have serious consequences for the user and the nonuser and the safety of the schools.

2. Definition
   For purposes of this policy, tobacco use shall mean all use of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, pipes and smokeless tobacco.

3. Authority
   The Joint Operating Committee prohibits tobacco use by classified employees in a school building and on any property, buses, vans and vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school.

   The Joint Operating Committee prohibits tobacco use by classified employees at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property.

4. Guidelines
   The school shall annually notify employees about the school's tobacco use policy by publishing such in handbooks, newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

   Incidents of possession, use and sale of tobacco by any person on school property shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.