823. USE OF TOBACCO

1. Purpose
The Joint Operating Committee recognizes that the use of tobacco presents a health and safety hazard which can have serious consequences for the user and the nonuser alike. It aims to provide an environment which protects students, staff, and visitors from this hazard.

2. Definition
For purposes of this policy, “use of tobacco” shall mean possession of lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted smoking product and use of smokeless tobacco in any form.

3. Authority
The Joint Operating Committee prohibits use of tobacco by all persons in the school, on any property owned or leased by or under the control of the school, or on any school bus or other vehicle owned or leased by the school whether or not that vehicle is on school property.

4. Delegation of Responsibility
School staff members are directed to inform persons observed using tobacco that such use is not permitted and are empowered to request such persons to remove themselves from school property if they continue to violate this policy. School staff persons employed by the school are also empowered to contact the police in the event a person continues to violate this policy after warning. Removal from school property may include suspension of the privilege to attend future school activities.

5. Guidelines
The Administrative Director shall annually include the essence of this policy in the student handbook.