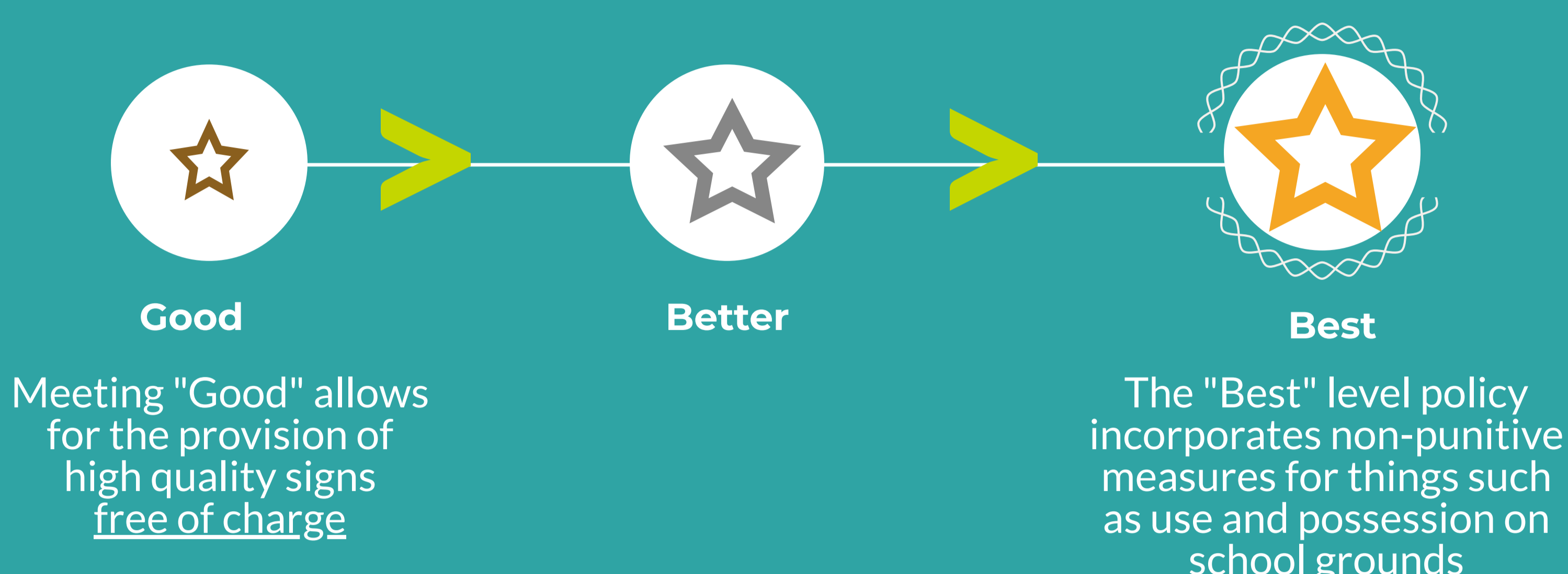


Model Tobacco Policy as a Foundation

Policy Framework

- Maine School Management Association, MSMA, maintains a policy template that meets State law, and includes the prohibition of electronic products.
- The MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence maintains different levels of policies rating along a spectrum of "Good/Better/Best" in terms of comprehensiveness.
- Schools are allowed to exceed State law with their policy. This would include the implementation of communication and enforcement efforts, which are necessary for a policy to be effective.



For assistance in creating, implementing or communicating your tobacco policy, contact your Tobacco Prevention Partner.

Maine's Tobacco 21 Law

Purchasing

In 2017, the Legislature passed a law that allowed Maine to become the fourth State to increase the age to purchase tobacco products to 21 - though it included a grandfathering clause to consider individuals who were 18 at the time the law became active (July 1, 2018).

18 → 21



Evidence-based strategy to decrease youth initiation.

Possession

Increasing the legal age to purchase tobacco products is an evidence based strategy to decrease youth initiation.

Removing penalties associated with youth possession is also an evidence based strategy to focus punitive aspects on those who provide youth with the products.



No punitive penalties for youth possession of tobacco products



Evidence-based strategy to decrease youth initiation.

For more information on the law as well as how it affects schools, please see the following resources:

- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- CTI T21 for Schools

Addressing Youth Possession

Recently there has been a significant focus on how Maine's Tobacco 21 law has affected school's enforcement capacity for student possession and use.

Namely, the law removed the capacity of law enforcement to file a civil violation against a student for possessing tobacco products on school grounds. The evidence-based framework of T21 sought to penalize those who sell/ provide tobacco products to underage youth - and decrease access.

The absence of civil violation does not limit what schools can do with the policies that they set. School policy can exceed State law and districts can develop and implement measures that go beyond what is currently allowed under law.

For example, schools could choose to prohibit possession by all students regardless of age.

