



# A New Approach to Policy Enforcement at RSU 20

## SUMMARY

The school district tobacco policy at RSU 20 was updated to incorporate a more evidence-based approach to enforcement, including positive and restorative practices.

## NEED

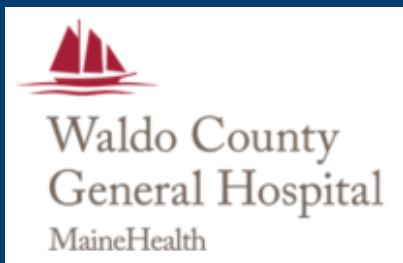
Tobacco use remains one of the leading causes of preventable disease and death in Maine. According to the 2019 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, in Waldo County 10.3% of youth are current cigarette smokers and nearly 24% are current e-cigarette users. Since tobacco use is typically started and established during adolescence, schools have an important role to play in preventing youth exposure and supporting tobacco-free living.

## INTERVENTION

Communication began in November 2019 when the Waldo County District Tobacco Prevention Partner (DTPP) reached out to RSU 20 with updated policy language based on a new state law that passed earlier that spring. In reviewing the policy, school administration also committed to incorporating positive and restorative practices for enforcement, eliminating in-school suspension for students who violate the policy. The new disciplinary procedure is focused on promoting behavior change and supporting tobacco use education, rather than further isolating the student with punitive measures.

## RESULTS

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the updated tobacco policy was approved by the School Board! RSU 20 worked with the Waldo County DTPP to order several new signs for display across school grounds to help with policy communication and compliance.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT:

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