

POLICY**TOBACCO USE**

Smoking in educational facilities in Minnesota is governed by the Clean Indoor Act, Sections 144.411 through 144.417. It...*"prohibits smoking in those places of work where the close proximity of workers or the inadequacy of ventilation causes smoke pollution detrimental to the health and comfort of nonsmoking employees..."* It provides that...*"the proprietor or other person in charge of a public place shall make reasonable efforts to prevent smoking in the public place..."*

Ridgewater College recognizes that the use of tobacco products poses a hazard to the health of its students, employees and visitors. To protect the health of the college community and the public, effective Fall of 2008, Ridgewater College designates all buildings and college property as tobacco free. Tobacco use in vehicles and equipment owned or leased by the College is also prohibited. Tobacco use in private vehicles in college parking areas is permitted. To the extent possible, Ridgewater College will provide access to cessation programs to help students and employees who presently use tobacco products.

Enforcement:

All Ridgewater College students and employees are expected to share the responsibility for informing others of this policy. Problems unresolved will be referred to the Director of Health and Safety and, if necessary, to higher administrative levels of the College.

Exceptions:

This policy does not prohibit the lighting of tobacco by an adult in an otherwise tobacco-free area as part of a traditional Native American spiritual or cultural ceremony.

History:

05.06.02 Adopted

04.14.08 Revised; Implemented 08.25.08