



CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Great Falls Public Schools Adopts District Wide Tobacco Policy**

*Great Falls, Montana-* Great Falls Public Schools has recently strengthened their existing tobacco use policy by adopting a district wide comprehensive tobacco policy. The policy will prohibit tobacco use by all persons-students, faculty, staff, and visitors while on school property or at school sponsored events. This change will have far reaching effects for our youth, such as:

- Healthier students learn better, have higher test scores, lower dropout rates, and less school absences
- Providing opportunity for positive role modeling
- Reinforces school-based tobacco prevention education
- Likelihood of being an adult tobacco user is dramatically reduced
- Better understanding of Clean Indoor Air policies

On January 11, 2016, Great Falls Public Schools will be awarded their certificate for being added to the list of Montana Tobacco-Free School Districts of Excellence. The ceremony will take place at the Great Falls Public School District Office, 1100 4<sup>th</sup> St. So., at 5:30 p.m. Officials from the Office of Public Instruction, will be present along with members from the Great Falls Public Schools CARE program, and the Cascade City-County Health Department.

*“Great Falls Public Schools has long been a staunch enforcer of Montana’s tobacco-free school provision of the 2005 Clean Indoor Air Act. We have committed to ensuring that the use of tobacco/nicotine products via smoking, chewing and vaping is prohibited in public school buildings or on any public school property at any time. Our policies support this prohibition as well as the dissemination of addiction and cessation information to students and staff. We are proud to be recognized as a Montana Tobacco-Free School District of Excellence,”* said Great Falls Public Schools Superintendent and Board of Health Member, Tammy Lacey.

1500 Montanans die each year from tobacco related diseases. The Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program’s (MTUPP) mission is to address the public health crisis caused by the use of all forms of commercial tobacco products. MTUPP works to eliminate tobacco use, especially among young people.

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