**ALASKA TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICY**

**Valdez City Schools**

**Profile Summary**

In an effort to promote tobacco-free schools, RurAL CAP and the State of Alaska Tobacco Prevention & Control Program have conducted an analysis of existing school district tobacco policies. Below is your school district summary:

**Incomplete: Policy lacks one or more key elements**

**(current score as of 07/03/2012)**

**KEY ELEMENTS OF RECOMMENDED TOBACCO POLICY**

* Prohibits use of tobacco products on all school property (including grounds, buildings, parking areas, and residencies where applicable)
* Prohibits use of tobacco products in school vehicles
* Prohibits use of tobacco products at any school-sponsored event (on- or off-campus)
* Defines tobacco to mean all forms of tobacco and tobacco use (all smoking products, smokeless tobacco products, and non treatment related nicotine delivery devices)
* Applies to all students, staff, and visitors
* Requires the posting of signs informing students, staff and visitors that school grounds are tobacco-free
* Identifies specific enforcement procedures and consequences for violating school policies
* Remains in force 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

**ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO POLICY**

* Includes a rationale for being tobacco-free
* States that tobacco possession by a person under age 19 is against the law
* Includes language restricting items from school property that might contribute to tobacco use and acceptability (such as lighters, clothing with logos)
* Includes a requirement for evidence-based tobacco prevention education for all students

**ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO POLICY (continued)**

* Includes provisions against accepting tobacco industry funds or free giveaways
* Includes language prohibiting tobacco advertising in school buildings and school functions
* Includes progressive consequences for violating school tobacco policy (such as an education program or in school suspension versus suspension for student’s first offense)
* Includes provisions to refer students and staff to local or statewide programs to help them quit using tobacco
* Includes language prohibiting distribution of tobacco products
* Includes language specifically prohibiting tobacco use by contractors
* Includes procedures for communicating the policy to students
* Includes procedures for communicating the policy to staff
* Includes procedures for communicating the policy to visitors

The following grading criteria has been developed and applied to the tobacco-free school policies submitted, broken into the six levels below. The ‘minimum standard’ includes all eight of the elements outlined as key elements for a tobacco-free environment.

**Tobacco free school** Minimum standard elements (8 total)

 **Gold star** Minimum standard plus at least ten additional elements\*\*

 **Silver star**  Minimum standard plus 5 - 9 additional elements

 **Bronze star**  Minimum standard plus 1 - 4 additional elements

**Incomplete** Policy lacks one or more key elements to meet the tobacco free school standard

**Missing** Policy has not been submitted

*\*\*Our model tobacco-free schools policy developed in 2012 with the Association of Alaska School Boards meets the Gold Star Standard.*