

Increasing Student Success Through Effective Tobacco Policy

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Abstract: Tobacco policies are an important tool to help schools achieve their primary mission of education, by promoting a positive, healthy school climate among students, staff, and campus visitors, so that students are in an optimum environment to learn.

State and national data show a direct link between tobacco use, lower test scores, and higher drop-out rates.

Tobacco policies and procedures that offer comprehensive content, and which are consistently and equitably enforced, are evidenced as one of the most effective ways to address and decrease tobacco use among students.

This session will highlight a school district in Pierce County, Washington that participated in the High School Tobacco Policy Enforcement and Enhancement Project, through funding from the Washington State Dept. of Health Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Discussion will include an overview of the project, processes followed, challenges, successes, and changes that occurred. Examples of model policies will be also be explored.