

**From:** [Linda Starr](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule making feedback  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:25:35 PM

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I tutor at Whittier Elementary School and approve of passage of both of the proposed rules re alcohol and cigarettes and attendance.

Linda Starr  
87108

**From:** [Sam Colombo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for updating 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools  
**Date:** Monday, October 9, 2023 3:53:37 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Sam Colombo from Albuquerque, New Mexico. I'm the campaign manager for 24/7 which works with school districts in New Mexico to help them adopt and enforce 100% Tobacco-Free policies. I'm reaching out in support of updating 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to tobacco-products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

This is such an important issue, especially with evolving Nicotine products. Back when I was in grade school, cigarettes and hookah were pretty much the only nicotine product that I heard of people using. And students who used them were far and few. Now that the vape industry has come into the picture with all sorts of appealing flavors to mask the harm, children are becoming way more likely to try these products at a young age and develop addictions. According to the FDA, **90% of nicotine addiction starts before a person is 18**. And one of the main places people have access to these products due to insufficient policies is at school. Once children have formed addictions, quitting can seem near impossible. My mom started when she was 9 years old and couldn't quit until she was 50, not for lack of trying.

Protecting students, staff and visitors from nicotine products at school is an important action we can take from preventing a lifelong addiction to tobacco. We can play a part in changing this and better protecting our youth by updating all school tobacco and nicotine policies. I'm looking forward to seeing how this updated rule can begin to change cultures around commercial nicotine tobacco products within schools.

Thanks so much

--

**Sam Colombo** (*they/them*)  
[24/7 Campaign](#) Manager  
Rescue | The Behavior Change Agency  
400 Gold Ave. SW Ste 880 Albuquerque, NM 87102

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**From:** [Andrea McNeely](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Update to 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools  
**Date:** Monday, October 9, 2023 4:45:53 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Andrea McNeely and I am the campaign manager for No Minor Sale - an educational and advocacy campaign focused on protecting youth from flavored nicotine products in New Mexico.

**I am reaching out in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to tobacco-products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.**

This is an important step towards protecting our kids from being able to access and use nicotine products - which is why I think it's vital for us to make sure this rule is updated. I've had several family members suffer from health consequences associated with long term tobacco use - my aunt, for instance, recently passed away at the age of 68 due to health complications worsened by smoking off and on since the age of 9. It's so sad that lifelong addiction led her to pass so quickly and it's not fair that the tobacco industry continues selling these products and finding ways to pull our youth in to become the next generation of users. If there is anything we can do to ensure youth won't start smoking in the first place, we need to make sure this happens - which is why it's so important for us to protect our kids at the school level. This should be a safe space for kids to learn and grow and to not be exposed to these toxic products and with 90% of nicotine addiction starting before a person is 18, it's more important than ever to update or approve of any and all rules involving youth nicotine product use.

I'm looking forward to seeing how this updated rule can begin to change cultures around commercial nicotine tobacco products within schools to ultimately protect our kids. Thank you for considering.

Sincerely,  
**Andrea McNeely** (she/her)  
No Minor Sale Campaign Manager  
(505) 933-9164



**Rescue** | The Behavior Change Agency  
[400 Gold Ave. SW, Suite 880](#)  
[Albuquerque, NM 87102](#)

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**From:** [Laurel McCloskey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support of proposal 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Free Schools  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 11:47:35 AM

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To whom it may concern,

**As the Executive Director of the New Mexico Chronic Disease Prevention Council that oversees the New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco, I am writing in support of the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools.** Our organization backs the updates to the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to tobacco-products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

This is important because:

- *1 in 3 of New Mexico high schoolers report using e-cigarettes.*
- *90% of nicotine addiction starts before a person is 18.*
- *Tobacco-related diseases disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and LGBTQIA+ communities.*

Protecting students, staff and visitors from nicotine products at school is an important action we can take from preventing a lifelong addiction to tobacco.

Especially with so many evolving nicotine products, it has become too normal for our children to be exposed to nicotine at school. We can play a part in changing this and better protecting our youth by updating all school tobacco and nicotine policies. I'm looking forward to seeing how this updated rule can begin to change cultures around commercial nicotine tobacco products within schools.

Sincerely,  
Laurel McCloskey  
Executive Director  
Chronic Disease Prevention Council  
505-463-5300

**From:** [Amanda Gozur](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:41:51 PM

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Good afternoon,

My name is Amanda Gozur. I currently live in Rio Rancho, New Mexico and have three elementary school-aged children who all attend Rio Rancho Public Schools. This comment is in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in strong support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students, including my own, in New Mexico from exposure to tobacco-products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

This issue is incredibly important to me because of the work I have done over the last 18 years volunteering with and mentoring high school students. Every day I see the increased pressure for youth to fit in. So many of the teenagers I've mentored have given into things they don't really believe in, like vaping, just to fit in and find a group they can belong to. And many times, the place they are inundated with that is at school. I've heard many stories of students escaping to bathrooms, finding a corner on a bus, even hiding it in their backpacks and vaping in the middle of class. Currently 1 in 3 New Mexico high schoolers are using e-cigarettes. This is one of the highest in the country! These students shouldn't have to feel like school isn't a safe place for them. They should be able to learn and grow and find belonging without the pressures to vape or the possibility of being exposed to tobacco and nicotine. My kids who are only in elementary school already know what vaping is because they've seen parents who come pick up their kids from their school vaping. I do not want my kids to continue to be exposed to vaping or any other tobacco use at their school or any school function. We pass other policies to work towards making schools as safe as possible, but are missing one of the best things you can do for my kids - reduce their exposure to nicotine and tobacco at school. 90% of nicotine addiction starts before a person is 18 and updating 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools, I believe, would reduce that number dramatically.

Especially with so many evolving nicotine products, it has become too normal for our children to be exposed to nicotine at school. We can play a part in changing this and better protect our youth by updating all school tobacco and nicotine policies so that the entire state of New Mexico benefits. I'm looking forward to seeing how this updated rule can begin to change the culture around commercial nicotine and tobacco products within schools.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Gozur

**From:** [ShaKayla Crank](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; sam@247newmexico.com](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 7:22:18 PM

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To whom it may concern

My name is shakayla crank i am a new mexico adivict in nm. I go to tucumcari high school.I am the tucumcari leader for the leadership team for Evolvement. I am with Evolvement which is a youth led movement working to a healthier new mexico without the harmful side effects of nicotine and tobacco.

I am reaching out to you in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to commercial tobacco and nicotine products on school grounds and at school events.

The reason that I started advicting was because of my nana. 17 years ago my nana was a big smoker and she almost died in response to that. She was in a coma and when they told my mom she should just pull the plug she refused and is still alive thanks to my mom. but if she had not been smoking then she would not have had this happen. And an important fact that we should all remember is 90% of nicotine starts is 18.

As a member of evolement i started with things like campaigns, blogs, writing for the American Heart Association, and last but certainly not least I have collected many surveys. As a leader I am doing more trying to better my school in more deeper and helpful ways.

As a youth advocate dedicated to changing tobacco policies in New Mexico, I urge you to support the new rule and commit to a safer, healthier New Mexico. Thank you for your time.

sincerely,  
Shakayla Crank  
tucumcari, new mexico

**From:** [Christine Barry](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Update of 6.12.4 NMAC Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Free Schools  
**Date:** Friday, October 13, 2023 8:15:18 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Christine Piacino. I have a teenage daughter who is currently attending Pecos Cyber Academy. This correspondence is in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Free Schools. I am writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can exposure to New Mexico youth on school grounds and at school functions.

My mother died a very terrible death due to COPD from smoking at the age of 63. She began smoking around age 13. Even though I hated that my parents smoked while I was growing up, I still became a smoker. If a person never starts smoking, they never have to try to quit.

I think there is something very important that people forget, and that is that it is ILLEGAL for a minor under the age of 21 to be in possession of cigarettes, tobacco, and vaping products. It is also ILLEGAL for an adult to provide a minor with said products. I cannot speak for any other brick and mortar school aside from Raton High School but I know that here, if there are fights, the police are called and citations issued. I do not understand why the same is not being done with possession of an illegal substance. I do understand that this is not necessarily a part of the proposed change but I think it would go quite a ways to combatting the problem of children of New Mexico making such an unhealthy and destructive choice.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Christine M. Piacino



**From:** [Hickey, Martin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Carlye Hausbeck](#)  
**Subject:** Support  
**Date:** Friday, October 13, 2023 5:51:42 PM

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For uniform PED rules on tobacco and especially vaping/nicotine - the new “gateway drug” to addiction. I will sponsor legislation this session to highly tax vaping/nicotine. Multiple states have demonstrated that this is the best tool to deter vaping. Thank you.

Martin

Martin Hickey, MD  
NM Senator  
District 20

**From:** [Natalia Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Saturday, October 14, 2023 2:29:18 PM

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To whom this may concern,

My name is Natalia Rodriguez I am a freshman at Gadsden Highschool. And I am a member of Evolvment a youth led program working to improve the health of New Mexico.

I am reaching out to you in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to commercial tobacco and nicotine products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

I'm motivated by my niece and nephew for Tobacco free schools because once they grow older I don't want them to be affected by this in a bad way and want them to live a great life. Especially because Tobacco-related diseases disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous and Hispanic communities.

As a part of Evolvment, I've worked with the 24/7 Campaign for Tobacco-Free schools to educate my peers and make local change within my school and district. I've helped take surveys from students and adults at school to get their opinions on tobacco-use. Last year 62% of respondents answered that they have seen tobacco products on school grounds or at school events.

As a youth advocate dedicated to changing tobacco policies in New Mexico, I urge you to support the new rule and commit to a safer, healthier New Mexico. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Natalia Rodriguez  
Anthony, New Mexico

**From:** [Carlye Hausbeck](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support of Rule Update 6.12.4 NMAC  
**Date:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 5:35:16 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Carlye Hausbeck, I live in Albuquerque NM and I have worked with high school students in NM for the last 5 years.

This comment is in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to tobacco-products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

From my work with students across the state, I have seen how much they are impacted by vapes and tobacco products on their campuses and this rule will greatly improve their experiences and learning environment. I also work with students in other states like Oklahoma, and as a proud New Mexican, I am embarrassed that our school tobacco policies are less strong than our neighboring states. We can do better and this rule update will move our state up to the standards of the nation and work to provide our kids with a better learning environment.

This rule update is one small step towards stopping nicotine addiction and improving the quality of life, our state's healthcare costs and the longevity of our youth. I am currently an expecting mother and I want my child to go to school in a space that doesn't tolerate ANY tobacco or nicotine products from staff, students or visitors. This is so important to me as a future parent because I want my child to go to public schools in NM; I believe in supporting our public education system, and I have a hard time doing that when teachers and staff can have tobacco products on them on campus. We can do better and this policy update will make me feel better as a future parent.

Please consider the importance of improving school tobacco policies and update rule 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools.

Thank you for your time,  
Carlye Hausbeck

**From:** [Rio Romero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Carlye@Evolverment.org](mailto:Carlye@Evolverment.org); [Sam@247newmexico.com](mailto:Sam@247newmexico.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Mexico Public Schools Tobacco Policy  
**Date:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 8:19:03 PM

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My name is Rio Romero and I am a senior at Los Lunas High School in New Mexico. I am a member of a youth led program working to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico- called Evolverment. This is my fourth year being a member and third year on the leadership team.

I am reaching out to you in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rules so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to commercial tobacco and nicotine products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

I am motivated to make my schools tobacco free because I see firsthand the effects vaping has on my peers. Not only is it a huge distraction, but school is usually the place where kids try vaping for the first time. I find it very sad that my peers have to deal with this and concerning that 90% of nicotine addiction starts before a person is 18.

As a part of Evolverment, I've worked with the 24/7 Campaign for Tobacco-Free schools to educate my peers and make local change within my school and district. Personally, this last spring, I met with Mrs. Toledo, the principal at Century High School. In our meeting, we discussed how the 24/7 campaign could improve the school's tobacco policy. Mrs. Toledo was very interested in what I had to say and wrote a statement agreeing that an update to the tobacco rules could make a huge difference.

I also help gather surveys from students and adults at schools to get their opinions on tobacco-use. Last year 62% of respondents answered that they have seen tobacco products on school grounds or at school events. This shows a clear need for better policies in schools across the state.

As a youth advocate dedicated to changing tobacco policies in New Mexico, I urge you to support the new rule and commit to a safer, healthier New Mexico. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Rio Romero

**From:** [Manuel Medrano](#)  
**To:** [Senteney, Emily, PED](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Policy  
**Date:** Monday, October 16, 2023 8:37:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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I am sorry for not responding sooner. I was speaking of the NO SMOKING policy.

Dr. M. Medrano  
Superintendent  
Jemez Valley Public Schools  
505-842-0902 Ext 306

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 8:18 AM Senteney, Emily, PED <[emily.senteney@ped.nm.gov](mailto:emily.senteney@ped.nm.gov)> wrote:

Manuel Medrano,

I wanted to follow up with this? Can you please specify which rule you're referring to please?

Thank you!

**Emily Senteney** | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501

C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

Check us out here: [Policy and Legislative Affairs](#)



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**From:** FeedBack, Rule, PED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 7:56 AM  
**To:** Manuel Medrano <[mmedrano@jvps.org](mailto:mmedrano@jvps.org)>  
**Cc:** Terrazas, Denise, PED <[Denise.Terrazas@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Denise.Terrazas@ped.nm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Policy

Manuel Medrano,

Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?

Thanks

**Emily Senteney** | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501  
C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

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**From:** Manuel Medrano <[mmedrano@jvps.org](mailto:mmedrano@jvps.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2023 1:04 PM  
**To:** FeedBack, Rule, PED <[Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Policy

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Jemez Valley Public Schools is in full support of this. We already have a policy in force and was approved by our school board.

Dr. M. Medrano

Superintendent

Jemez Valley Public Schools

505-842-0902 Ext 306

**From:** [jill campbell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.12.4 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, October 16, 2023 1:23:20 PM

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Good afternoon, my name is Jill Campbell. I am a sophomore at Cuba high school and I am from Cuba New Mexico. I am on the Evolvment New Mexico Leadership Team. Evolvment is a youth led organization that advocates for a tobacco-free New Mexico. I am reaching out to you in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to commercial tobacco and nicotine products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events. The reason why I care is because I've seen how tobacco has negatively affected people I've grown up with. Nicotine addiction is a serious and extremely common issue. 1 in every 3 high schoolers in New Mexico have a nicotine addiction. As a part of Evolvment I've worked with the 24/7 campaign to educate my classmates on the dangers of tobacco and how to fix problems in the district with policy changes. I have done things like host tables with fellow evolvers. During lunch we decorate our table and set up fun games to encourage students and staff to come visit our table. During this we also collect surveys and from those surveys we have found out that last year 62% of respondents reported seeing tobacco products on school grounds or at school events. As a youth advocate I urge you to support the new rule and commit to a safer healthier New Mexico.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Lesley Meyer](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for tobacco-free schools  
**Date:** Monday, October 16, 2023 2:18:28 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon,

My name is Lesley Meyer. I am contacting you in support of the proposed rule for a comprehensive tobacco policy to all New Mexico public schools. I live in Albuquerque and my sons are in the Albuquerque Public School district.

This comment is regarding the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to tobacco-products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

**This is so very important to me as tobacco products have impacted my family in many ways. I have multiple family members who've struggled with nicotine addiction. Most concerningly, my younger brother became addicted to e-cigarettes because his school baseball teammates used them on campus. Now I worry for my two young sons as they enter elementary school. I know vape products are more popular than ever, even among young students. The products come in flavors young children like. I do my part at home to educate my children, but peer pressure plays a role that I cannot control. We must have rules in place to protect young people including prohibiting any tobacco products on school campuses. 90% of nicotine addiction starts before the age of 18. Let us prioritize the health of our children with this rule.**

Protecting students, staff and visitors from nicotine products at school is an important action we can take from preventing a lifelong addiction to tobacco.

**Please support this proposed rule to apply a comprehensive tobacco policy to all New Mexico public schools.**

Especially with so many evolving nicotine products, it has become too normal for our children to be exposed to nicotine at school. We can play a part in changing this and better protecting our youth by updating all school tobacco and nicotine policies. I'm looking forward to seeing how this updated rule can begin to change cultures around commercial nicotine tobacco products within schools.

Sincerely,  
Lesley Meyer

**From:** [Addi Downs](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support  
**Date:** Monday, October 16, 2023 4:16:44 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Addirose Downs and I live in Albuquerque and have a younger brother who attends Cibola High School.

This comment is in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to tobacco-products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

This issue is incredibly important to me because I have a younger brother in the school system, and I work with high schoolers who are seeing tobacco and nicotine in their everyday school life. I have the privilege of getting to talk to high schoolers across the state through my job and am constantly hearing how prevalent nicotine use is in school either by the students, visitors, and even staff. It's incredibly disheartening to hear and see how the younger generation is being affected and how young these students who are starting actually are. I'm always hearing about needing more education and prevention in middle schools and elementary schools. 90% of nicotine addiction starts before a person is 18 years old which is so very heartbreaking.

Protecting students, staff and visitors from nicotine products at school is an important action we can take from preventing a lifelong addiction to tobacco.

Especially with so many evolving nicotine products, it has become too normal for our children to be exposed to nicotine at school. We can play a part in changing this and better protecting our youth by updating all school tobacco and nicotine policies. I'm looking forward to seeing how this updated rule can begin to change cultures around commercial nicotine tobacco products within schools.

Sincerely,  
Addirose Downs

**From:** [Kailey Vasquez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, October 16, 2023 4:27:38 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Kailey Vasquez and I am a junior at Mora High School. I have been a member of Evolvement for three years and have been a part of the leadership team for two years. Evolvement is a youth led program working on improving and protecting the health of New Mexico.

I am reaching out to you in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to commercial tobacco and nicotine products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

I joined Evolvement in order to advocate and see the change I wanted to see not only in my school but also my community and state as a whole. I am personally motivated to make schools tobacco free because I have watched family members struggle with tobacco and nicotine addictions. Having younger cousins and people I care about has encouraged me to help prevent it. If you can reach out and educate younger people our goal of stopping tobacco and nicotine use may become a reality. 1 in 3 New Mexico high schoolers use e-cigarettes and 90% of all nicotine addiction starts before the age of 18.

As a part of Evolvement, I've worked with the 24/7 Campaign for Tobacco Free schools to educate my peers and make local change within my school and district. Personally I have hosted events for open houses and during lunch to educate my peers and anyone on campus about the dangers of tobacco and nicotine use. I have also met with my principal and counselors to discuss the importance of posting information on campus and updating tobacco policy.

I also help gather surveys from students and adults at school to get their opinions on tobacco-use. Last year alone 62% of respondents said they have seen tobacco products on school grounds or at school events. This shows a clear need for better policies in schools across the state.

As a youth advocate dedicated to changing tobacco policies in New Mexico, I urge you to support the new rule and commit to a safer, healthier New Mexico. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kailey Vasquez  
Mora, New Mexico

**From:** [Andrea Rutan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for updates to 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Free Schools  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:43:27 AM

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To whom it may concern,

**My name is Andrea Rutan and I am a resident and supporter of education in Cedar Creat, NM.**

This comment is in regards to the proposal to update 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. I'm writing in support of updating the existing rule so that it can better protect all students in New Mexico from exposure to tobacco-products on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.

### **Share why this issue is important**

**Improved nicotine policies are important to me because I have seen the effects addiction has had on school aged youth as well as my own family members who have suffered health consequences from nicotine and tobacco addiction.**

**When I visit a school in the state as a contractor and need to use the restroom, I am inundated with vape smoke from students using in the bathrooms. It only takes a little knowledge to know what to look for, and suddenly you see minors all around you using nicotine and tobacco products.**

**I want to see youth protected to the best of our abilities so they have a fighting chance against big tobacco corporations who manipulate and take advantage of them to increase their sales.**

- *1 in 3 of New Mexico high schoolers are using e-cigarettes*
- *90% of nicotine addiction starts before a person is 18*
- *Tobacco-related diseases disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous and Hispanic communities.*

Protecting students, staff and visitors from nicotine products at school is an important action we can take from preventing a lifelong addiction to tobacco.

Especially with so many evolving nicotine products, it has become too normal for our children to be exposed to nicotine at school. We can play a part in changing this and better protecting our youth by updating all school tobacco and nicotine policies. I'm looking forward to seeing how this updated rule can begin to change cultures around commercial nicotine tobacco products within schools.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Rutan