



ACE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In Kansas, 13 percent of high school students currently smoke cigarettes and 11 percent of male high school students currently use smokeless tobacco.¹ Overall, about 1 in 4 Kansas high school students used some kind of tobacco product in the past month.¹ Tobacco use causes cancer, heart disease and reduces life expectancy.

There are a variety of activities and strategies that have been proven to reduce youth tobacco use. The ACE Kansas Youth Tobacco Cessation Program (ACE) incorporates many of these strategies to support comprehensive youth tobacco control and prevention in Kansas.

The primary goal of ACE is to help students who are using tobacco to quit. To accomplish this goal, there are six program objectives:

- 1. Increase the number of schools with policies that support student cessation as either an alternative or complement to existing administrative punishment.**
- 2. Increase student awareness of free cessation coaching services available in Kansas.**
- 3. Increase the proportion of students who use tobacco who register for cessation coaching.**
- 4. Increase student knowledge of the health dangers of tobacco use.**
- 5. Increase the number of schools with comprehensive tobacco-free school grounds policies.**
- 6. Increase the number of schools integrating tobacco prevention and cessation education into relevant classes.**

Adoption of ACE policies by a school or school district is the result of the collaborative efforts of individuals and organizations at the state, community and school level. Once in place, ACE is managed at the school-level by ACE Champions. ACE Champions can be any school staff person interested in student health including school administrators, nurses, coaches, counselors or resource officers. The ACE champion's role in ACE management can include implementing ACE promotional activities and supporting students' cessation service registration through the free Kansas Tobacco Quitline.

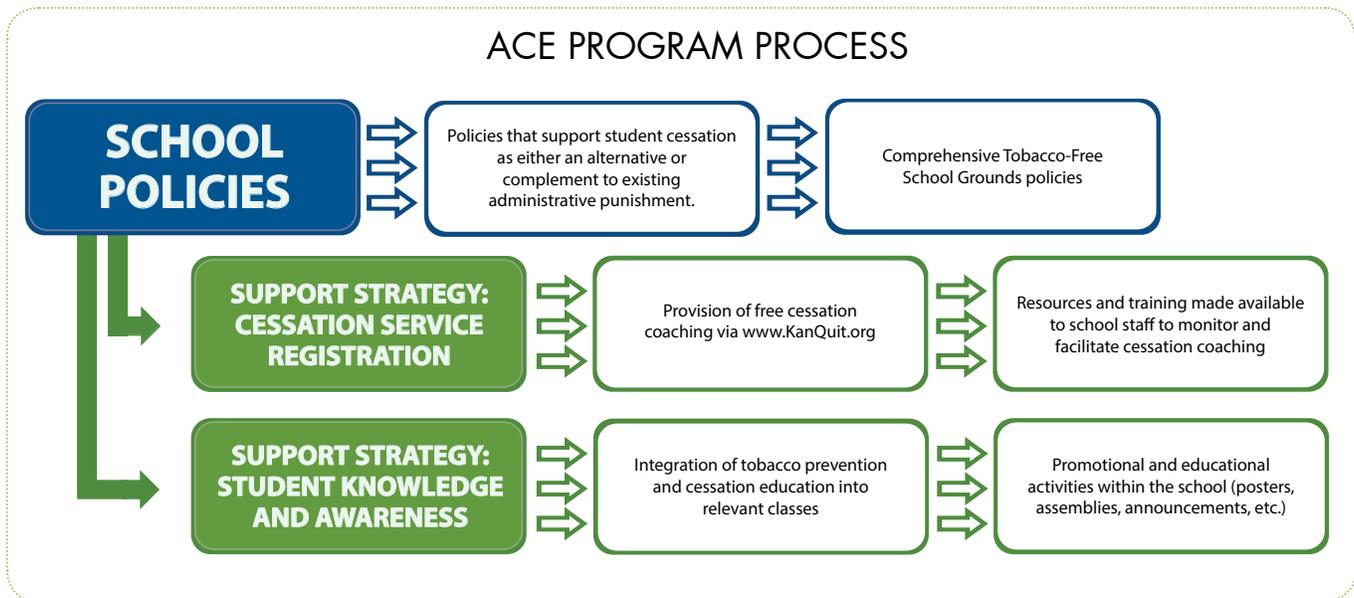
At the state level, a Kansas Tobacco Use Prevention ACE Coordinator is available to connect ACE Champions to community partners in ACE implementation, such as local health departments, coalitions and other community organizations. In addition to serving as a connection to community partners, the ACE Coordinator is available to provide guidance on the cessation service registration process and determine appropriate ACE promotion and tobacco prevention education activities.

¹ Kansas Department of Health and Environment. 2011-2012 Kansas Youth Tobacco Survey, Distribution of Youth Tobacco Use. Topeka, KS: Bureau of Health Promotion; 2012. Available at http://www.kdheks.gov/tobacco/download/YTS_Burden_2012.pdf. Accessed March 11, 2013.



ACE partners at the community level may also provide assistance with these components of ACE. ACE Champions should contact Holly Frye (ACE@kdheks.gov), ACE Coordinator to be connected to community partners or if they're interested in providing support to students beyond registering them for cessation services.

The diagram below illustrates the ACE Program process. Schools are first required to address their tobacco use policies and subsequently encouraged to implement the supporting strategies in order of importance for their individual program.



The ACE program emphasizes school policies because they create the environment or “set the stage” for accomplishing ACE goals and objectives. Without supporting school policies, ACE Champions and community partners will have a difficult time implementing sustainable, effective activities in school to reduce youth tobacco use.

Although ACE supports general awareness and prevention of tobacco use, ACE is primarily a youth cessation initiative for youth who already use tobacco. To effectively reach and support youth in quitting tobacco, coaching services (Kansas Tobacco Quitline) must be available and school staff must be trained and feel comfortable working with students and referring them to coaching services. A training video for ACE Champions is located on the Kansas Tobacco Use Prevention Program webpage at www.kdheks.gov/tobacco/ACE.htm and through KS-TRAIN at ks.train.org using course number 1047242. The training video includes a demonstration of the Kansas Tobacco Quitline online registration process.

Finally, if the supporting school policies and effective student cessation support have been implemented, ACE Champions and local partners are encouraged to build student knowledge and support of tobacco cessation by integrating tobacco prevention and cessation education into relevant classes and implementing promotional activities around school.

