

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2006

EASTERN NC SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP TO SHARE BENEFITS OF ADOPTING 100% TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL POLICIES

PITT COUNTY FORUM TO FEATURE PRINCIPALS AND ADMINISTRATORS FROM EASTERN NC DISTRICTS THAT HAVE WORKED TO ELIMINATED TOBACCO USE AT SCHOOLS

(FARMVILLE, NC) – School leaders across Eastern North Carolina will have an opportunity to learn about the value and benefits of adopting a 100% tobacco-free schools (100% TFS) policy from school administrators representing 100% TFS districts in Eastern North Carolina. A public forum will be held on **Fri., March 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at the **Farmville Community Center** in Farmville.

To date, 69 of the state's 115 school districts have adopted a 100% TFS policy, which prohibits all tobacco use everywhere on campus and at campus-related events at all times. Craven County Schools, Pamlico County Schools, Washington County Schools, Duplin County Schools, Clinton City Schools, Bertie County Schools, Halifax County Schools and Roanoke Rapids City Schools are among the school systems with this policy.

"A 100% tobacco-free schools policy makes our schools healthier for students, school staff and visitors," said Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue, Chair of the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF), which funds the tobacco-free schools initiative. "Many school systems in Eastern North Carolina already have 100% tobacco-free schools policies. But, we wanted to give administrators from those systems that haven't yet adopted this policy an opportunity to hear their colleagues share how beneficial the policy is to their own districts and how easy it is to implement."

The forum is sponsored by HWTF in conjunction with the NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch.

WHO: School leaders, public health officials and other concerned citizens from Eastern North Carolina counties.
WHAT: Leadership Forum to discuss 100% tobacco-free schools policies
WHEN: Fri., March 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Lunch will be provided)
WHERE: Farmville Community Center at 3886 South Main Street in Farmville, NC

ABOUT THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF has invested \$127 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$78 million to fund a prescription drug assistance program. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

####