

**Media Advisory**

**April 18, 2007**

**Eastern NC School Leaders learn more  
about Tobacco-Free School Policies**

*April 19<sup>th</sup> Nash County Forum to feature principals, administrators in eastern NC  
districts that have worked to eliminate tobacco use at schools*

**Rocky Mount, NC** – School leaders across Eastern North Carolina will have an opportunity to learn about the value and benefits of a 100% tobacco-free schools (TFS) policy from school administrators in North Carolina’s 100% tobacco-free school districts at a public forum to be held Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Gateway Center in Rocky Mount.

To date, 84 of the state’s 115 school districts have adopted a 100% tobacco-free school policy, which prohibits all tobacco use everywhere on campus including campus related events. Pitt County, Halifax County, Roanoke Rapids City, Warren County and Lenoir County are among the school systems with this policy.

“A 100% tobacco-free schools policy makes our schools safer for students, school staff and visitors,” said Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue, Chair of the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund, which funds the tobacco-free schools initiative. “Of course, many school systems in Eastern North Carolina already have 100% tobacco-free school policies. We want to give administrators from those school systems that haven’t yet adopted this policy an opportunity to hear from their colleagues in a 100% tobacco-free system to explain just how beneficial it is and how easy it is to implement.”

The forum is sponsored by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund in conjunction with the NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch. The forum is hosted by the Nash County Health Department.

- WHAT:** Leadership Forum to discuss 100% tobacco-free school policies  
**WHO:** School leaders, public health officials and other concerned citizens from Eastern North Carolina counties.  
**WHEN:** Thursday, April 19th  
11:30 am-1:30 pm (Lunch will be provided)  
**WHERE:** Gateway Technology Center  
NC Wesleyan College  
3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd.  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

*The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund 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 \$143 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$102 million to fund prescription drug assistance programs. For more information, please visit [www.HealthWellNC.com](http://www.HealthWellNC.com).*

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