

Allen ISD Statement Regarding Vaping/E-Cigarettes

August 16, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In Allen ISD, we take the health of our students very seriously. School districts across the country are dealing with issues related to student usage of e-cigarettes, also known as e-cigs, vapes, pens or Juuls (pronounced jewels). E-cigarettes can contain harmful ingredients, including addictive substances such as nicotine and chemicals linked to lung disease. As partners in the development of our youth, we wanted to make you aware of this growing trend among teenagers, as well as changes to state law.

The FDA states that 3.6 million middle and high school students used e-cigarettes in 2018, which is 1.5 million more students than in 2017. Adding to the problem is the misconception among teenagers and many adults that e-cigarettes are harmless. It is estimated that using one pod of e-cigarette liquid is equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes. Furthermore, it is also possible for e-cigarettes to be outfitted with pods that hold THC, the psychoactive chemical found in marijuana.

To address serious concerns about youth usage of cigarettes, e-cigarettes and tobacco products, the State of Texas passed legislation which raises the legal age for purchasing, using or possessing these products from 18 to 21 years of age beginning September 1, 2019. While tobacco and e-cigarettes have long been a violation of the Allen ISD Student Code of Conduct (SCC), based on this change in legislation, the high school will enhance the consequences within the guidelines set forth in the SCC for students found to be in possession of any tobacco or e-cigarette paraphernalia.

Students who are found to be in possession of tobacco or e-cigarette paraphernalia will face potential suspension and/or placement in an alternative setting. Students will also be referred to local law enforcement as a minor in possession of tobacco, which is a Class C misdemeanor.

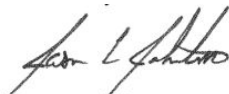
Our goal is to partner with our families to support our students in making positive choices for themselves. Please have a conversation with your student about the dangers of e-cigarettes and the serious consequences that will accompany any student found in possession of a vaping device. Below you will find links to resources with additional tips for talking to your student.

Thank you for your continued support of our district as we address this issue.

Sincerely,



Jill Stafford
Lowery Freshman Center, Principal



Jason L. Johnston, Ed.D.
Allen High School, Principal

Resources for Parents on Vaping:

[Quick Facts on the Risks of E-Cigarettes for Kids, Teens and Young Adults](#)

[Know the Risks – Surgeon General's Information](#)

[Youth Tobacco Use – Food & Drug Administration](#)