



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

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Superintendent of Schools

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December 5, 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian,

USA Today recently reported on the dramatic rise in electronic cigarette use (vaping) among teens. The Surgeon General has reported that the use of e-cigarettes is higher among teens than it is with adults and is an [emerging public health concern](#). The Center for Disease Control reports 38 percent of high school students and 13 percent of middle school students have tried vaping (theverge.com, 12/29/16)

Kingsway's students are not immune to this new phenomenon, and the number of reports to administration regarding student vaping has grown exponentially in a few short months. In a recent discussion with student leaders about the vaping subculture plaguing our school community, students reiterated that there is, in fact, an issue within our schools.

Therefore, this letter serves as a public service announcement to parents that vaping, and its many derivatives ([juuling](#); dabbing; dripping; puffing, etc.), have become a top concern among our school officials. It is also important that our parents understand that vaporizers and e-cigarettes, although legally marketed for the use of tobacco-based products to adults, are widely used by minors to ingest illegal and dangerous substances. Students need to be mindful of the *Student Code of Conduct*, revised on November 30th, and the consequences using and/or possession presents. ([MS Code of Conduct](#), Pages 27-28; [HS Code of Conduct](#), Pages 44).

The second page of this announcement will assist you with understanding why vaping presents a number of health risks to our students and why they have become so popular today. I want to also press upon you that possession of these devices on school property, and/or at school-sponsored events, violate both Tiers II.G and IV.E of the High School Student Code of Conduct (MS: No. 17 & 18.A) and will initiate mandatory drug screening protocol in addition to a number of serious consequences.

As a parent, I join you in concern for the well-being of our children. As your school superintendent, I want nothing more to discourage the use of these devices among our students and to educate them on the potential health risks of use. In the coming weeks, similar information will be presented to our students.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment in establishing a safe and healthy school environment so that our students can learn and reach their fullest potential. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of School

Home of the Dragons

WHAT IS VAPING

Vaping is the act of inhaling vapor produced by a vaporizer or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette; e-cigs). The vapor is produced from a material such as an e-liquid (e-juice), concentrate, or dry herb. A vaporizer uses a battery, which powers the heating element in the atomizer or cartomizer, transforming the substance into vapor for inhalation. E-juice typically consists of propylene glycols and vegetable glycerin, flavorings and may or may not contain nicotine but do come in a variety of flavors (i.e. tropical fruit, watermelon, coffee, etc.)

WHY IS VAPING DANGEROUS

Harvard University published a study purporting that the particles found in vapor contain known carcinogens and toxic lung-destroying chemicals (diacetyl¹, 2,3-pentanedione², acetoin³), as well as potentially toxic metal nanoparticles from the vaping mechanism. Dripping, which refers to the slow release of liquid from a wick onto a hot atomizer, may expose users to higher levels of nicotine and to harmful non-nicotine toxins such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde. See the Surgeon General's [Parent Tip Sheet](#) for and the [CDC What You Can Do](#) for more.

The medical journal *Pediatrics* reported that teenagers have cleverly found ways to use these devices to consume hashish oil, marijuana, wax and other cannabis products, making vaping the new gateway drug. Other drugs include ecstasy, Molly, meth and other amphetamines, fentanyl, heroin, codeine, Percocet, Ritalin, Xanax, acid, DMT, mushrooms, flakka (an amphetamine-like drug similar to bath salts) and muscle relaxers.

HOW DO STUDENTS ACQUIRE/DISGUISE

Our teenagers are being lured into local vape shops by flavored liquids and exotic gadgets or are easily purchasing devices online, despite the restriction of sale to minors. Our kids know that vaping is an easy habit to disguise since the devices can resemble your ordinary ballpoint pen or USB drive, and does not give off a tobacco or marijuana stench. Students have been found to pull these devices out in plain sight, vape discreetly throughout the school day, and even post videos of themselves on social media vaping.

A variety of designs such as pens and USB drives help to disguise vaping from the unsuspecting eye.



¹Studies in both rats and mice demonstrate that the cells lining the airways can be damaged by inhaling diacetyl vapors as a single agent exposure in both acute and subchronic studies (Hubbs et al. 2008; Morgan et al. 2008)

²A recent NIOSH peer-reviewed publication documents that acute inhalation exposures to 2,3-pentanedione cause airway epithelial damage that is similar to diacetyl in laboratory studies (Hubbs et al. 2012)

³An additive used in cigarettes, Acetyl Propionyl and Acetoin are considered lung irritants and their chemical composition is very similar to Diacetyl.

