



Coweta County School System

Letter to parents regarding e-cigarettes

February 13, 2019

Dear Parents,

Coweta County School System administrators have recently seen an increase in the number of incidents involving the use of e-cigarettes by middle and high students. Our school system wants to alert parents to this trend, and to share information regarding e-cigarettes and their detrimental effects on teens and young adults.

Several health organizations have provided guidance to help to combat this growing issue in our schools. These include information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/features/ecigarettes-young-people/index.html), which notes that “e-cigarettes are now the most commonly used form of tobacco by youth in the U.S.” The U.S. Surgeon General (e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov) warns that “many e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive,” as well as other harmful substances. Also, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) launched its first tobacco prevention campaign “[The Real Cost](#)” in 2014, to educate at-risk teens on the harmful effects of cigarette smoking, and expanded it to educate teens on the dangers of e-cigarette use in 2018. A full list of educational resources like these can be found on the school system’s website (www.cowetaschools.net).

According to the CDC, e-cigarettes are electronic devices that heat a liquid and produce an aerosol, or mix of small particles in the air. E-cigarettes come in many shapes and sizes. In fact, some e-cigarettes are so small that they are very difficult to detect, and may even resemble pens or USB drives to casual observers. E-cigarettes are known by many different names. They are sometimes called “e-cigs,” “e-hookahs,” “mods,” “vape pens,” “vapes,” “tank systems,” and “electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Using an e-cigarette is sometimes called “vaping” or “JUULing.” The CDC also reports that the use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for children, teens, and young adults. These devices often contain extremely high levels of nicotine or other harmful substances besides nicotine.

It is against Georgia law for a minor to buy or possess vaping products. Additionally, the use or possession of e-cigarettes in our schools is a serious violation of the Coweta County School System code of conduct. School administrators have been advised to treat it as such. Students who use e-cigarettes at school may be subjected to severe disciplinary consequences, including suspension from school or referral to student services.

Please talk with your child about the health risks and other consequences that are associated with the use of e-cigarettes. Feel free to contact your child’s school or our school system offices if you have any questions. And please refer to our school system’s website for resources that may help you talk with your child at home. Your child’s safety, and the maintenance of a healthy and safe school environment, are our school system’s top priorities. We appreciate parents’ support in this mission.