



Student Services Department

RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed

Dear RISD Parents and High School Students,

As you may have heard, vaping has gained national attention as an epidemic among young people with wide ranging negative physical effects. Richardson ISD has experienced exponential growth in the number of students who have been found using vaping devices across all levels of our campuses. In response to this increase in vaping, the Student Services Department has organized a Vaping Committee to evaluate the impact of this new trend, develop some systematic changes, and support processes districtwide.

These new processes are a combination of both consequences and education. In regard to consequences, having or using a vape on campus will incur a standard discipline measure of three days of In School Suspension (ISS). There will be strict enforcement of this consequence across all four high schools. Although it is not new, another very important factor for parents and students to be made aware of is if your student is found to have a vaping device (DAB pen) that contains THC oil (marijuana derivative) your student will have committed a felony and could be expelled from the district for 90 days to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Educational Placement Center and be arrested for the offense. Obviously, having a felony arrest can have long term and wide ranging consequences for students and should be taken very seriously.

The educational component to the district campaign will focus on building awareness with students, parents and staff as well as increased observational presence on all four high schools during the school day and at all school sponsored activities. Also, through our #liveWiselyHealthy initiative, students, staff and parents will have access to vaping information throughout the year. We will be releasing a vaping educational video about the dangers and consequences of vaping at the beginning of the year that will be accessible to all RISD stakeholders. We will also be posting several signs throughout the high school campuses reminding students that vaping devices are prohibited items on any campus or district property.

With all of this new information, I would request that you take a few minutes to speak with your high school student on the dangers of vaping and the potential consequences for bringing these devices onto any RISD campus. I am confident that as partners we can increase knowledge on the dangers of vaping and decrease the usage of these devices on all of our campuses. For more information, <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/> is also a valuable resource if you have specific questions on vaping and its potential consequences.

If you have, any further questions about the information in this letter please feel free to reach out to your campus administrator.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Gibbins
Chief Executive Director Student Services