

Dear High School Parents,

Vaping (the common name for e-cigarettes or vapor devices) continues to be a serious issue

E-cigarettes or vape pens are small battery-powered devices that disperse nicotine and other associated chemicals that users can inhale. Originally developed as a “safe” alternative to traditional tobacco use, e-cigarettes and vape pens are steadily gaining tremendous popularity amongst teens. The vaping epidemic is certainly an issue locally, including with many students that attend Elk Rapids Schools. The State of Michigan has established laws prohibiting vaping on public grounds and institutions, including school campuses. The Surgeon General of the United States has classified these devices as tobacco products and continues to caution against their

use. (https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf).

The Elk Rapids Public Schools’ Board of Education and ERHS Student Handbook classifies e-cigarettes, vape pens, and similar devices as tobacco products as well. Therefore, possession or use of vape devices will result in school consequences and extra-curricular and co-curricular performance penalties for students who use them (sports, music, drama, robotics, etc). Students that sell or distribute vape devices or paraphernalia may face more stringent consequences.

Parents, please take a moment to speak with your student about the implications of using these devices on school grounds as well as their health.

[This link](#) includes pictures of many of the common vaping devices that are prevalent in Northern Michigan.

Dear ERHS Families,

One of the difficult challenges that we face today is the increasing use of vaping devices among teens. We would like to provide you with information about vaping so that you can support your child(ren) with this issue. We also want to remind you that vapes are not allowed on our campus - either in use or on person. They are also not allowed in vehicles on campus. Current policy is typically a 1-3 day suspension (in-school and/or out-of school) for possession or use of a vaping device or vaping materials on school grounds.

Vaping devices (also known as vapes, vaping delivery systems, vape pens, e-cigarettes, and more) are often misunderstood as being safe to use. These devices can be bright colors and contain fruit flavors like watermelon, strawberry, and blueberry. Although harmless-looking to some, these devices most frequently contain nicotine and other harmful chemicals (including opiates and THC) along with the flavoring that is promised in the name.

Vaping equipment varies in size, style, and name but they all contain three main components: vape device, batteries, and eJuice.

1. Vape Device: Styles of vapes vary from traditional looking e-cigarettes and elaborate pipes to designs that resemble a USB flashdrive.
2. Batteries: Many vapes use rechargeable batteries; others can be charged through USB ports.
3. eJuice: eJuice contains the flavoring, nicotine, and other elements that people can vape.

What is the appeal among teens? Vaping offers a quick “buzz” to the user. Vaping devices use a battery to heat up the liquid, or eJuice, and turn it into vapor. Users then inhale the vapor into their lungs giving the user a nicotine “high” or “buzz”.

Please take some time to connect with your child and discuss this important topic. Let's work together to help decrease the use of vaping among our teens. You can find more information about vaping devices in the article attached to this message or at the following links:

[E-Cigarette Basics](#)

[Special Update: Vaping](#)

[Vaping: What Parents Need to Know](#)