



Perry Local Schools

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To Our Perry Families,

I hope you and your families enjoy the upcoming break and holiday season.

As we approach the new year, Perry Local Schools will maintain its focus on working together with parents to create the healthiest learning environment possible for our students, while encouraging them to make smart choices when it comes to their health and well-being.

As you may be aware, vaping has become a prevalent issue among today's youth, at both the middle and high school levels. As a district, we are seeing an increase in students bringing vaping devices, also known as e-cigarettes, to school and using them on school property.

Many teens are under the impression vaping is not as dangerous as smoking cigarettes. Recent studies have shown this is not the case. For example, e-cigarettes contain high levels of nicotine, making them highly addictive. Additionally, they also contain at least five cancer-causing compounds. Visit these websites for more information on the negative impacts of vaping:

- <https://childmind.org/article/teen-vaping-what-you-need-to-know/>
- <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/teens-e-cigarettes>
- <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/e-cigarettes-inhaling-more-than-you-bargained-for>

In an effort to help deter students from vaping, the Board of Education is in the process of updating the policy on the Use of Tobacco (policy 5512) to address the collection of vaping devices. A first reading of the addition to policy 5512 will be held at the December Board meeting with expected approval in early January. Students found in possession of vaping devices or any other forms of tobacco will have those items confiscated and they will not be returned. This will be done in addition to the school discipline that is assigned, per the student handbook.

The district has seen an increase of vaping devices being used for illegal substances. As such, all vaping devices will be turned over to the Perry Police Department for testing. The police department will then determine whether or not a student should be charged.

The goal of this policy is to educate families and encourage our students to make healthy choices for themselves and their school environment.

Sincerely,

Scott Beatty,
Superintendent