

September 20, 2018



Dear Douglas County High School Families,

Welcome back Huskies! I hope that all of you enjoyed a wonderful summer break, and families are returning to school prepared for a successful 2018/2019 school year.

I write today to address a concern we have identified on our campus and in our school community. Douglas County, like many schools around the country, is encountering problems created by the popularity and accessibility of alternative smoking devices. The more popular devices at this time seem to be vape pens and Juuls. [Here is a resource](#), in case you are not familiar with these devices. Last year, we identified a significant increase in the number of incidents involving “vaping” at schools throughout the school district. These alternative smoking devices use nicotine and are considered tobacco products.

The purchase, possession, or use of alternative smoking devices by minors is illegal in Colorado, and they are absolutely not allowed in schools. Smoking, and the use of tobacco products, is specifically addressed in the [DCSD Code of Conduct](#) (Policy JICG). Due to the unique aspects of these devices (odorless, smokeless, “creative” designs), some students feel that they can “vape” at school, in restrooms, or even in classrooms. These behaviors negatively impact student health, safety, and the learning environment. To that end, students caught in possession of or using these products on school grounds may face a one to three day out of school suspension.

Alternative smoking devices pose dangers and risks to our kids (overheating, exploding batteries, hazardous toxins). Marijuana oil can also be used within a vape pen or Juul. Please take a few minutes to do some research on e-cigarettes, vaping, and Juul products, as well as the laws and health implications involved. [This article from the U.S. Surgeon General](#) may prove a beneficial resource.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Anthony Kappas
Principal