

CHINOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICE POLICY CHANGE

As you may be aware, over the past decade, there has been a significant increase in the use of electronic smoking devices by high school students to “vape” tobacco and other nicotine products. In fact, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse for Teens, electronic smoking devices are the most commonly used form of nicotine delivery system among youth in the United States. Common additives used in electronic cigarettes include nicotine, flavorings and caffeine. In high doses, these substances may have negative effects on adolescent brain development.

Recently, however, an alarming new trend has arisen. Teens are no longer using these electronic smoking devices, referred to as “e-cigarettes,” simply to vape tobacco. These devices, now frequently referred to as “weed pens” and “weed vaporizers,” are instead being used to vape marijuana. Researchers have also recently reported that one in four high school students who use electronic smoking devices to vape marijuana use a method referred to as “dripping,” which generates higher heating coil temperatures than conventional devices and leads to greater emissions of a class of harmful chemicals known as “volatile aldehydes,” including formaldehyde and acrolein. Therefore, in addition to being illegal, marijuana vaping can have significant, dangerous health consequences.

Given the uncertainty of what substances are contained in these odorless electronic smoking devices, the inability of school officials to verify the contents of such devices through a visual or olfactory inspection, and the documented prevalence of using electronic smoking devices to vape dangerous concentrations of marijuana and other illicit substances; **effective February 9, 2022, students who are discovered using or in possession of an electronic smoking device or its components at school or a school sanctioned event will be considered to be in possession of items reasonably determined to be drug paraphernalia.** In accordance with the Chinook School District #10 Student Discipline Policy (3310) and Student Extra and Co-Curricular Chemical Use Policy (3340), sanctions against the student, including immediate short-term or long-term suspension may be imposed. The policy change was approved at the Tuesday, February 8, 2022 school board meeting. If there are any questions regarding the updated policy, please contact Chinook High School at 406-357-2236.