



ANGLOPHONE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

In recent years there has been a sharp increase in the use of vaping products. Anglophone South School District is committed to the wellbeing of our students and this fall we are launching our **Vape-Free Schools** campaign to middle and high school students.

There is mixed messaging about vaping and as a result both students and parents are often unaware of the facts. We have included some important key facts about vaping on the following page. We will be sharing more information and resources with our students throughout the year and reminding them of the expectations and consequences.

ASD-S is sending a clear message to students that our school buildings, property, and buses are vape-free spaces. *No Smoking/Vaping/Cannabis* signage has been installed on buses, in high school restrooms, and at the entrances to all schools in the District. This is to serve as a reminder to students and guests from the community that our schools are smoke and vape-free environments. As well, high school principals have developed and adopted consistent consequences that will be applied in all ASD-S high schools. This will be communicated to all high school students on the first day of school.

Please be aware: the consequence for high school students found vaping or smoking in or on school property, including school buses, or during extracurricular school activities will be a 1-day suspension and possible interruption of extracurricular activities. Subsequent instances will result in increased suspension time and possibly a government issued fine.

You can support our vape-free initiative by talking to your child about vaping and supporting their efforts to stop. We ask that you discuss with them the consequences for vaping on school property and that you support school officials when these consequences are imposed.

If you have questions about vaping we encourage you to visit the Government of Canada's *Consider the Consequences* website: www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/vaping.html.

You can find information to better understand what vaping is, how it can harm your child's developing brain, and ideas on how to talk with your child about vaping.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Zoë Watson'.

Zoë Watson
Superintendent

QUICK FACTS

- While vape devices are often marketed as smoking cessation products, they should not be considered healthy or 'safe' especially as many users were previously non-smokers. Vaping juice contains toxic chemicals and additives known to cause lung disease and the long-term effects on health are still unknown.
- Most vaping products contain nicotine. Young, developing brains are more vulnerable to forming stronger and faster nicotine addictions than adults, making it harder to quit. Also, youth who vape are more likely to experience addiction to other drugs later in life.
- Advertising of vaping products is geared toward teens and young adults, largely through social media campaigns, with novelty vape pens and thousands of flavors to choose from, such as bubble gum and cotton candy.
- Latest studies have indicated a **74% increase** in youth vaping in Canada from 2017 to 2018. ([British Medical Journal](#))
- The rise of youth vaping is believed to be related to the increase of cigarette smoking in Canadian teenagers - reversing a trend of declining teen tobacco use for the first time in 30 years. ([British Medical Journal](#))
- Studies show that non-smokers are 4x more likely to start smoking cigarettes after only 18 months of using vape products. ([American Journal of Medicine](#))
- Since 2015, vaping has been part of provincial anti-smoking legislation. Vaping is not permitted in indoor workplaces, school grounds, or school buses. Additionally, the sale of vaping products by or on behalf of people under 19 is prohibited.
- Under the *Smoke-free Places Act*, those in violation can be fined \$172.50 by law enforcement officers and inspectors.
- School districts' responsibilities are detailed under [EECD Policy 702, Tobacco-Free Schools](#).