

WARREN HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.warrenhills.org

February 2018

Dear Warren Hills Regional School District Parents,

The Warren Hills Regional School District has seen a recent spike in incidents involving student vaping--the act of inhaling a vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. Complicating this issue is that there is varying information and misunderstanding involving vaping and/or electronic cigarettes. We are concerned about the use of vape pens or e-cigarettes in the community and are writing to request your partnership in keeping these products out of our school.

Possession and use of a vape pen, e-cigarette, or any materials associated with them is strictly prohibited at school, and illegal, as are all tobacco products. If we find students using or in possession of vapes or tobacco products, we will file complaints with the Washington Township Police Department, in accordance with the NJ Statute 26:3D-55 through 26:3D-63, (see Board of Education Policy #5533 Student Smoking and Board of Education Policy and Regulation #5530 Substance Abuse) which prohibits smoking and possession of these substances on school property. Violations carry a minimum fine of \$250 for the first offense and a court appearance. Signs have been posted at all entrances to our schools reminding everyone that possession, smoking, use of vapes and/or the use of tobacco is strictly prohibited and illegal within our schools and on school property.

The liquids that are vaporized come in many different flavors and might even smell fruity, which make it very tempting and appealing to students. The flavors of these liquid concentrates, or 'vape juices,' are sweet and even have names such as, cinnamon roll, marshmallow, bubblegum, lemonade and cookies. The 'vape juices' may contain nicotine, or these juices may contain other chemical substances, such as THC or fentanyl, which are very addictive, harmful and illegal. Additionally, the vapor is not only harmful to the student using the device but any student around the use of the vape.

Vaporizers/e-cigarettes come in all different shapes. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items and school supplies. Examples are flash drives, highlighters, pens and clothing drawstrings. Like cigarettes, stores cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 21. However, students report that they purchase the devices online or buy from older siblings, friends, or even gifted by parents.

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When students vape in school, it may be due to an addiction to nicotine they have developed, a peer pressure issue, or they are simply curious and want to try it. Additionally, vaping may alter the student's state of mind, which will negatively impact their ability to achieve.

Thank you for remaining vigilant about talking to your child about the dangers of vaping. If you have any further concerns or questions about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Earl C. Clymer, III', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Earl C. Clymer, III
Superintendent
Warren Hills Regional School District