

Babylon Union Free School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is meant to educate all of us, regardless of the age of our children or what schools they attend. School districts throughout the country have recently seen a considerable increase in the possession and use of electronic cigarettes (“e-cigarettes”) or vaporizers (“vapes”), most notably JUUL devices. In some cases, an island-wide trend has seen an uptick in the possession and use of these vaporizers in schools, on school grounds and within communities. These devices are easy to purchase, often being sold by local community establishments in towns across America.

By way of background, New York State most recently passed legislation that now officially bans the use of these devices in schools, on school grounds and at all school events. This law does not discriminate on the user’s age; e-cigarettes, just like cigarettes, are banned on school property regardless if the user is a youngster or adult.

Our District Code of Conduct has always prohibited the possession and use of nicotine, marijuana and any paraphernalia that supports such. This includes now, by definition, any e-cigarette, vaporizer device or JUUL. With that, any student who violates this law in school, on school grounds or at school-related events, will be subject to suspension as outlined in the District Code of Conduct.

The health risks are alarming, and risks are being identified as more people use these devices. The common additives used in e-cigarettes include not only nicotine and caffeine, but some devices can now be used to vaporize cannabis (marijuana) and other drugs. These substances have known negative effects on adolescent brain development. Additionally, any harmful chemical broken down to a liquid form could constitute drug possession charges by authorities if caught.

Our district continues to take a proactive approach, especially with our older students, as discussions have been held in health classes as to the many health risks that are associated with vaping. Additionally, it is our hope that through the efforts of the home and school that our students will understand the related health risks, social consequences and refrain from using such devices. I strongly encourage you to have a conversation with your adolescent child about the danger of e-cigarettes. The following link will provide parents and older students with more information about these devices: <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/vaping-may-harm-lungs>

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Linda J. Rozzi

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