



July 18, 2019

## PCSD Vaping Policy Update

*Dear PCSD Parents and Students:*

The Paulding County School District (PCSD) has experienced a significant rise in the use of vaping devices by both middle and high school students during the past school year. During the 2018-2019 school year, we had several student related offenses involving marijuana or THC that resulted in student disciplinary action in Paulding County schools. Many of these offenses were directly related to vaping.

Too often in our schools, student vaping has led to medical emergencies where, in some cases, students had to be transported to local hospitals. In addition to the potential health risks, it is illegal for students under the age of 18 to use vaping devices or to purchase vaping materials. It is also against school district policy for students to vape or to bring the devices or materials to school.

Please be aware that the Paulding County School District will apply the following consequences to our middle school and high school students for possession of a vaping device. These policy changes will be effective immediately. These consequences align with Regulation JD-R (3) middle and high school code of conduct.

<b>STUDENT POSSESSION OF ANY VAPING DEVICE WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES:</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense:</b>	5 days out-of-school suspension.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:</b>	10 days out-of-school suspension.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:</b>	10 days out-of-school suspension and recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

Please note that a vaping device with THC or any other type of illegal drug is a level 3 discipline offense which will result in a 1<sup>st</sup> offense **minimum consequence of 10 days out-of-school suspension which could also include a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion.**

Parents, please talk with your children at home about the potential health-related dangers of vaping and these newly implemented consequences for bringing vaping devices to school. Should you have any additional questions or concerns please contact the principal of your child's school. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

### **References:**

- <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/teens-e-cigarettes>
- <https://www.ajc.com/news/local-education/cigarettes-teens-new-way-smoke-give-parents-schools-new-worry/CSbVcxwzAX3MRaE8815yZK/>
- <https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/2018%20Electronic%20Cigarette%20Use%20among%20Youth%20in%20Georgia.pdf>
- <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2018/12/teens-using-vaping-devices-in-record-numbers>