



Dear RSD Parent(s)/ Guardian(s), and Students,

It is the goal of the Russellville School District to “educate, equip, and empower all students” in our district. In fulfillment of this goal, we will always strive to provide a safe and healthy environment for all students in our schools. We need everyone’s help in communicating this to our school community.

Like many other schools across the state and nation, RSD has seen a rise in occurrences involving student vaping over the last year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue and alert you to possible consequences if your child engages in vaping on school property. We are taking this matter very seriously due to the negative health risks vaping can have, and its proven harmful and negative effects on our students in past incidences.

The U. S. Surgeon General has declared E-cigarette usage an epidemic in the United States among our youth, and in an effort to overcome this threat to our student’s health, the Russellville Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Mark Gotcher, staff, and administration will begin enforcing strict consequences with behaviors associated with “vaping” on school grounds or “school sponsored” events beginning August, 2019. Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or E-cigarette. The vapor can contain nicotine and other substances. Vape liquid can be used to hide/consume marijuana, fentanyl, cocaine, MDMA, temazepam, and even synthetic drugs. Examples of vaping devices are vaping pens, dab pens, mods, and E-cigarettes. Some common styles we see look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, and a flash drive. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items.

RSD shall be a tobacco free environment. Refer to *RSD Policy 4.23R* found on our district website. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal consequences in addition to student disciplinary action. The following consequences may be administered to any student caught vaping, and/or in the possession of any vaping material:

1. The student’s tobacco, vaping device, and/or associated items will be confiscated.
2. The student may receive up to five (5) days of out-of-school suspension & up to (5) days at the Student Detention Center.
3. The student will complete an educational course on the harmful effects of vaping before they return to school.

Our goal is to partner with RSD parents to help support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and their futures.

Sincerely,

President Morgan Barrett
Russellville Board of Education

Superintendent Mark Gotcher
Russellville School District

Principal Al Harpenau
Russellville High School