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## **Old Bridge Township Public Schools**

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January 30, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students.

In accordance with NJ State law, "Smoking is prohibited in any area of any building of, or on the grounds of, any public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, regardless of whether the area is an indoor public place or is outdoors." Smoking is defined as "the burning of, inhaling of, exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other matter or substance which contains tobacco or any other matter that can be smoked, or the inhaling or exhaling of smoke or vapor from an electronic smoking device." Additionally, on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, New Jersey joined a list of growing states that have raised the legal limit to buy tobacco and electronic tobacco products to 21 years old.

In recent months the frequency of electronic smoking devices and the boldness with which students are using these in school buildings have increased. These devices, which are predominately odorless and smokeless, serve the same unhealthy purpose and allow businesses to target and profit on our children and prey on their naivety. Furthermore, the liquids and oils used in electronic smoking devices can be easily altered and used to inhale illicit drugs, such as THC/marijuana and synthetic drugs.

The contents of an electronic smoking device cannot be determined through observation or easily tested to determine if it is tobacco or a controlled dangerous substance. Therefore, students in possession of electronic smoking devices/components will be suspected of being under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance on school grounds and will receive disciplinary action including but not limited to detention, in-school suspension and/or out of school suspension. Additionally, the school will contact a parent/guardian, who must immediately take the student for a drug screen and physician's clearance. Should a student test positive for a controlled dangerous substance, he/she will be subject to further discipline under Board Policy 5530.

As great as we believe Old Bridge Township Public Schools are, we are by no means immune to many of the issues that plague our schools today, including drug and alcohol abuse. "Vaping" has added a new level to this battle and we will continue to meet it head on. Please review this information with your child to ensure that it is clearly understood that drugs, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices are illegal and are certainly not permitted in school.

We thank you in advance for your consistent love and support for our students.

David Cittadino Superintendent

Vincent Sasso
OBH5 Principal

Timothy J. Dolan

Martha Simon CSMS Principal William Rezes
JSMS Principal

