

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

E.T. Richardson Middle School
20 W. Woodland Avenue
Springfield, PA 19064
610-938-6300

Springfield High School
49 W. Leamy Avenue
Springfield, PA 19064
610-938-6100



Dear Parents/Guardians,

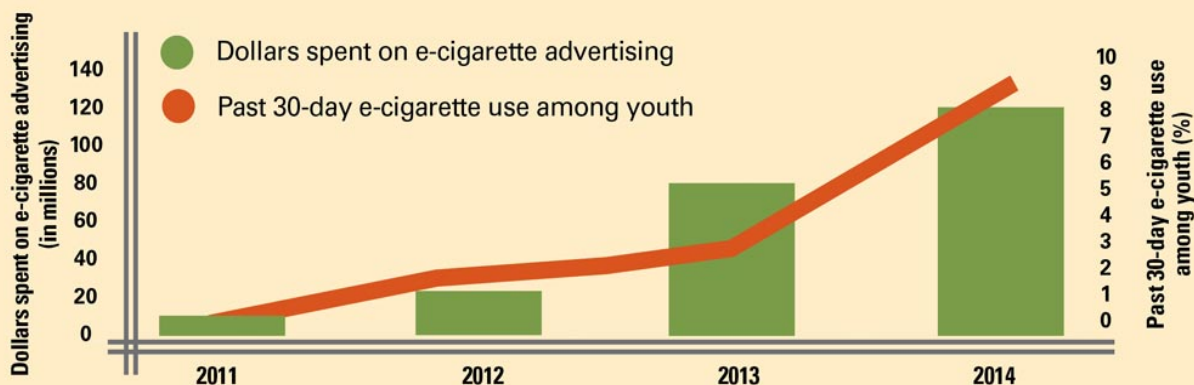
The Springfield School District believes that a well-informed community is the first step in being able to support our children to make healthy choices. As such, the contents of this letter are being shared with you to promote continued collaboration amongst our community in regards to e-cigarettes, vaping and the latest trend, "JUULing." We understand that many of you may not be aware of this new phenomenon and some of the "tricks" that young adults are using to obtain these devices. Of additional concern is the fact that at this time there are many unknown health risk factors associated with the use of these products. For your reference, the attached "Quick Facts about Vaping" page outlines some key talking points that may be useful when discussing this topic with your children.

Our commitment to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of our students must be our number one priority. As such, we will continue to be diligent about enforcing school rules and School Board policies to the fullest extent when dealing with situations involving vaping on school property. In all instances, the device/paraphernalia will be confiscated, and consequences may vary according to the Student Handbook. If you have questions or concerns, or if you would like to combine efforts to support and reinforce this message with your child, please do not hesitate to contact our building administration or your child's school counselor. We look forward to joining efforts with our community on this issue.

Sincerely,

ET Richardson and Springfield High School Administration

E-cigarette use among youth is rising as e-cigarette advertising grows



SOURCE: National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2011-2014; Kim et al (2014), Truth Initiative (2015).

Quick Facts about Vaping:

- Pennsylvania prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from purchasing electronic smoking devices.
- Smoking of any type is prohibited on school property before, during, and after school hours.
- A Vaporizer, or “Vape,” is a battery-operated heating element that heats liquid into vapor when the user inhales from the end of it. This is similar to the way a traditional cigarette is smoked. Many resemble small ZIP drives.
- Each cartridge may contain anywhere from the equivalent of one (1) to twenty (20) cigarettes’ worth of nicotine.
- These liquids can also contain THC, a chemical found in marijuana.
- The JUUL (pronounced “jewel”) is rapidly becoming one of the most common electronic smoking devices used by students.
- The JUUL is attractive to youngsters for many reasons. Our students tell us that the small size, many flavor options, and the ability to charge the device via a USB port are among the most popular reasons for owning, or wanting to own, a JUUL.
- There are also slimmer devices that look like credit cards and larger devices that look like a small box with a tube extending from it.
- Vapes are not yet required to be cleared by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which raises even more concern as to the types of harsh chemicals people may be ingesting.
- Several students have admitted to borrowing a device without asking about the contents of the cartridge or whether the sharing student has a communicable illness. Instead, the number one question students ask their peers before borrowing and smoking from a vaping device usually is “what flavor is it?”
- The most common method of obtaining the device and liquid is by purchasing a Visa gift card, using the gift card to purchase the vape online, and then having the vape shipped to a friend’s house whose parents won’t question the package. Some students say they’ve purchased or were given devices from friends. Students have also reported to administration that these items can be purchased on Amazon and sent in typical Amazon packaging.



The JUUL with cartridge measures 3.75" in length.



Different vaporizers with loadable flavored cartridges