

Vaping /Juuling Information

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling a vapor produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. Juuling is essentially vaping named after the popular Juul e-cigarette. Although these e-cigarettes are intended to help adults quit smoking, students are using them as a tobacco alternative.

Vaping and Juuling is a topic that has been discussed in Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) and the community for several years. There's growing consensus that the answer to this societal issue is a multi-faceted approach with K-12 efforts in conjunction with parents and the community.

1. BPS schools have taken the role as educators and supervisors to ensure kids are taught the ability to be responsible decision-makers. This skill is worked on every year from Kindergarten through 12th grade. This skill provides students the ability to make informed decisions.
2. School Resource Officers (SROs) have worked with the staff and students to create awareness about the hazards of vaping and juuling.
3. BPS hosted 3 summits to inform parents about vaping and juuling in the fall of 2018.
4. BPS also offered informational sessions during parent/ teacher conferences.
5. Bismarck High School principal David Wisthoff brought in UND sociology professor Frank White to discuss this topic at an evening event for parents, students, and the community. It was not widely attended. Wisthoff is exploring the idea of having Professor White lead some small student focus groups in the fall of 2019.
6. BPS continues to create awareness and work with SADD and other student groups to address concerns. At a recent legislative session, the Century High SADD club testified in favor of regulating vaping and treating it the same as smoke and smokeless tobacco.
7. BPS uses educational resources provided by the Tobacco Prevention program at Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health.
8. All students at Legacy High School were given a presentation in their Advisory class period and a refresher in a large group presentation by an SRO.
9. Presentations were done the LHS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting.
10. High school staff were given a presentation on prevention and what to look for regarding juuling and vaping.
11. High schools have asked staff to be visible throughout the school and between classes.
12. Staff monitor bathrooms more frequently but students reporting others is the best prevention.
13. Vaping is widespread and exits more prevalently outside the walls of BPS.

Some parents have asked the following of school level and central office administrators:

- Place cameras in bathrooms
- Remove bathroom stall doors
- Suspend vaping/juuling violators until they give up their suppliers, then fully prosecute the suppliers.

BPS will continue to educate, inform, and respond to the issues of vaping and juuling according to policy ABBA Tobacco Free Schools: the term "tobacco products" includes e-cigarettes and other electronic smoking devices, which are prohibited on all indoor or outdoor district property.