

September 16, 2019

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Out of concern for the health and welfare of our students, Gordon County Schools has adopted a specific protocol for addressing the nationwide epidemic that is currently plaguing schools around the country. Vaping and e-cigarettes pose a significant health risk to our students; therefore, the following violation has been added to the middle and high school code of conduct.

Definition:

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. The term is used because e-cigarettes do not produce tobacco smoke, but rather an aerosol, often mistaken for water vapor, that actually consists of fine particles.

Vaping requires the use of a purpose-made or homemade device that vaporizes oil that may contain flavoring, nicotine, Cannabidiol (“CBD”) oil of varying concentrations, tetrahydrocannabinol (“THC”) oil of varying concentrations, or other substances that may or may not be legal to possess (“vape”). A vaping device is generally composed of a vaporizer, battery, reservoir for smoking oil, and a battery charger. By way of example and not as a limitation, vaping devices may be called vapes, Juuls, e-cigarettes, e-cigs, dab pens or other brand names.

Consequences:

In keeping with the District’s approach to progressive discipline, the following consequences will apply to any student in grades 6-12 who is in intentional or unintentional possession of any vaping paraphernalia during any school-sanctioned activity or on any Gordon County school campus during or outside of normal school hours. While elementary students are not subject to the 6-12 code of conduct as reflected below, any violation of this code by an elementary-aged student will be treated as a serious violation and disciplined as such by school administration.

In addition to the following consequences, any vaping paraphernalia found in connection with the offense will be confiscated and **not returned**.

- 1st Offense: 5 days OSS or parent/student option to accept 5 days of ISS, with counseling and educational modules, AND revocation of out-of-district contracts.
- 2nd Offense: 10 days OSS
- 3rd Offense: OSS pending a tribunal hearing

The aforementioned changes to the Code of Conduct will become **effective on October 14, 2019**.

In the event a student is found to be in possession of an illegal substance/drug for use in a vaping device, such will be treated as a separate drug-related offense.

We appreciate your assistance in implementing this new protocol and your understanding in enforcing these consequences in an effort to ensure the welfare of all of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kimberly M. Fraker
Superintendent