



# Grove City Area School District

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Jeffrey A. Finch, Ed. D.

Superintendent

September 14, 2018

Dear Grove City Parents and Guardians,

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a H.O.P.E. (Heroin Outreach Prevention and Education) meeting held at the Pittsburgh field office of the FBI. The Pittsburgh Division of the FBI has partnered with key community stakeholders -- including educators, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation facilities, and members of the media -- to form the [H.O.P.E.](#) initiative. During this meeting on drug trends in our region, a DEA agent reported that two high school students, one in Butler County and one in Beaver County, overdosed during the school day from **vaping** cartridges that they purchased online that contained an opioid substance. Both students were resuscitated using naloxone.

This communication is intended to encourage families to become better informed about the rising trend of school students using **vaping** devices, such as JUULs. JUUL devices heat up a cartridge containing nicotine-laced oil to create vapor that can be inhaled. The JUUL device is small enough to conceal in a closed fist, and it resembles a USB flash drive (pictured below), which is how it is charged for further use. **The nicotine in one JUUL cartridge is equal to one pack of cigarettes.** Unfortunately, JUULs seem to be the most abused vaping device among teenage students.



**Inhaling an unknown or unregulated substance could be dangerous, and some cartridges that are purchased for vaping could include an illegal drug, such as marijuana or an opiate.** At this time, the FDA is attempting to regulate vaping devices: however, vaping devices have already flooded the adolescent market, so it is best that you are informed of the risks so that you can start a conversation with your son or daughter to prevent or eliminate the use of vaping devices.

At this time, not enough research has been conducted on vaping devices, so we do not know the long term effects of vaping on the human body. The key findings we know so far are listed below with their source information and links:

- **Vaping liquid could include toxins, nicotine, marijuana, opiates, and other substances that are harmful**
  - Link: <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx>
- **Vaping nicotine can damage your blood vessels**
  - Link: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/ers/67802>

- **Vaping weakens your immune system**
  - Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4363846/>
  - Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28495856>
- **People who vape are four times more likely to start smoking cigarettes**
  - Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29242110>
- **According to the [American Lung Association](#), using electronic cigarettes or vaping, particularly the flavored varieties, can cause popcorn lung.**
  - Link: <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/318260.php>

Thank you for reviewing the information in this letter. If you have questions or concerns about your own child, I encourage you to contact your pediatrician or school counselor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey Finch  
Superintendent