

ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force - October 2019 RESULTS

23 Responses submitted (as of December 14, 2019)

Request for input regarding “youth vaping”.

Background/context:

Alberta Health Minister Tyler Shandro has asked MLA Jeremy Nixon to lead a review of the province’s tobacco and smoking legislation, with a focus on regulating vaping.

Alberta’s current smoking and tobacco legislation doesn’t specifically address vaping or the use of tobacco-like products such as hookah and water pipe in public and workplaces.

The Alberta *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act* requires a review to begin by November 1, 2019 and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Amendments to the act will be introduced in the spring 2020 session of the legislature.

1. Has *youth vaping* been a topic of discussion at your school council meetings?

(8) Yes (15) No

2. Has your school council/school organized parent presentations on *youth vaping*?

(5) Yes (18) No

3. Is your school council aware of local resources (information, sessions) regarding *youth vaping*?

(10) Yes (13) No

4. Are parents in your school community supported with information and knowledge related to *youth vaping*?

(6) Yes (16) No

If yes, please describe:

- Alberta Health Services has provided information sessions publicized through the school division for parents and students.
- To some degree parents are made aware through our school of community sessions that include information on youth vaping (e.g. transition to junior high session with our municipality). The DARE program in grades 5 & 6 also touched on vaping and flavored vapes.
- Parents whose children are involved in our Grade 6 DARE Program receive this information.
- Whenever relevant information is delivered to the Principal; he passes it on to our school council/parent body
- School presentations for parents
- As an Elementary School; we do not feel this is an issue for us at this point but if parents are concerned we can direct them to find information.

5. Does your school/division have policies regarding *youth vaping*?

(22) Yes (1) No

If yes, what are the consequences that can be applied to students who breach those policies?

- It is the same as anything illegal - suspension or expulsion. (5)
- <https://epsb.ca/media/epsb/ourdistrict/boardoftrustees/boardmeetings/2018-19/may142019/06-MotionreStatementofSupport-TobaccoReductionAmendmentAct.pdf>
- The vape is taken away and parents notified. (with this though it's frustrating because the parent can ask for the vape back and turn around and give it back to the student) Consequences are under the discretion of the schools but hands are still too tied.
- Students found to be under the influence of or in possession of substances or paraphernalia related to vaping are suspended; regardless of what type of substances are involved.
- Right now the students are fined if they are caught vaping. However, if the child is under 16 then the parents are responsible to pay the fine. It is also sometimes hard to enforce these consequences as students tend to be doing it in secretive ways.
- Access to this information is not readily available; nor is information on the consequences to students who breach these policies.
- Our division has an Administrative Procedure 162 on Smoke; Vape; and Tobacco Free Facilities. The consequences for vaping are the same as for smoking.
- I'm sure the high schools do; but we are not aware of them.
- Vaping is under the same policies as tobacco use. Admin will talk to the students first and then if behaviour persists; an in-school suspension will be given.
- Fines are given to students caught vaping in the high schools.
- Our school admin tells us there is a policy but we don't know the details.
- * Confiscation* Education*Detention* Suspension
- Vaping is considered the same as cigarettes and marijuana.
- Each situation is different but typically if a student was caught vaping at school it would include:- Parent meeting- Counselling session with AHS- In-school or out of school suspension- loss of privileges may also occur...again depending on the situation.
- The Edmonton Catholic Schools regarding tobacco and tobacco products (including cigarettes; e-cigarettes; and vaping) includes the following consequences for each offence:1. An administrative referral with the possibility of a suspension.2. Smoking/vaping educational package.3. School Resource Officer referral.
- confiscate, suspension (3 day)
- The Student Rights & Responsibilities document is on the front page; the language has been updated to be clear that vaping is not allowed. Consequences vary.

6. Do students in your school use “secretive” ways to participate in vaping in/on school property? (E.g. utilizing student washrooms; concealing vaping tools, etc.)

Comments:

Yes – 12

- not even so secretive
- washrooms; locker rooms; class rooms when teachers are absent; outside during breaks they conceal in underwear; bras etc. where of course staff cannot look

- they do by using areas that are not as open for teachers to see as by stairs; in corners; on the bus or just off school property in the trees.
- We are aware of concealed vaping tools being used.
- In our middle school it is not as common although students in junior high were aware of other junior high students who were vaping in the bathrooms. However; parents with kids at our high school commented that there is daily vaping in the washrooms as well as on field trips. Students are vaping in the school yard; go into the parking lot to vape. It is common to see students with vapes.
- washrooms; hiding in clothing {socks;bras etc.}; small devices that disguises{pens}
- Students vape in bathrooms; on school buses (both public transit and school booked and they ghost (keep vapour in their mouths until it condenses then they swallow))An assistant superintendent says we have children as young as elementary age vaping.
- Principal says yes, students do this. No major issues with vaping at this school, though. They dealt with 4 vaping issues last year. They're pleased with the level of problem here.

No – 7

- The closed campus policy which keeps students on campus during lunches has minimized problems in this area.
- Not typically; as we are an elementary school; although there has been an isolated incident.
- There is a lot of talk, but no student has been seen vaping.
- Our school is strictly "no smoking" on the property regardless if you are a student or a guest. At this point we have not experienced anyone vaping in or on the property.

Not aware of – 3

- Hopefully not since we are a K-6 school

7. Does your school council support the Alberta Government in establishing policies and regulations with respect to the advertising, sales, and use, of vaping materials and youth?

(23) Yes (0) No

If yes, should policies and regulations be similar to those for other smoking materials (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, cannabis, etc.)?

Comments:

- More along the lines of cannabis and alcohol.
- They should ban any flavours.
- This effects not only the students that vape but those who do not. Students should not have to be exposed to vaping and its effects just as they should not be subjected to second hand smoke. Schools should be able to have more authority to handle this.
- There should not be flavours sold as these are appealing to children and youth; it should not be able to be marketed or sold in view of children and youth and it should be regulated like cigarettes; cannabis; etc.
- We believe our school would strongly support policies and regulations with respect to advertising; sales and use of vaping materials. We believe the policies and regulations should be identical to those for other smoking materials and it is as harmful as cigarettes and should be treated as such.
- We believe that the policies should be the same as for tobacco products. (3)

- Absolutely; or even more strict considering the lack of scientific understand of the long term impact of vaping.
- The policy should also include treatment or some form of counseling for the students involved.
- Yes should be same as cigars; cigarettes; cannabis; etc.
- There is not enough research into the effects of vaping at any age but there has been increasing reports of negative health effects (illness; hospitalization; death). There should be more regulations and policies at least until more research can show the effects of vaping)