

# Turning the Tide on the Teen Vaping Epidemic

## School Substance Use Discipline Policies

### Background

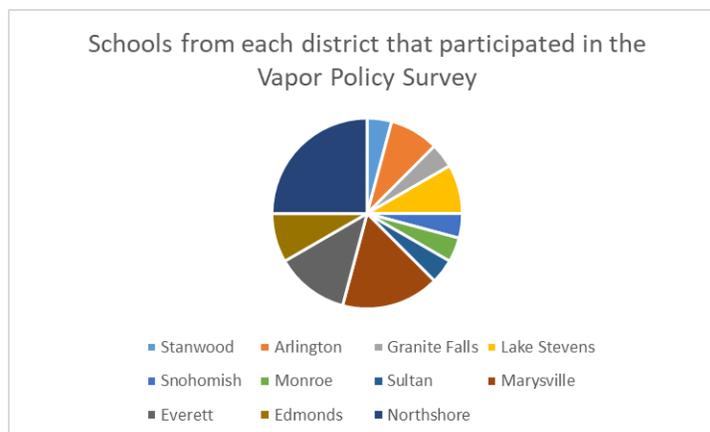
-  All schools and school districts have a tobacco policy and a drug and alcohol policy that prohibits students from using these substances on school grounds, showing up for class under the influence, or having paraphernalia associated with these substances
-  In the past, schools have typically used suspension and mandatory drug and alcohol counseling as discipline when students violated school tobacco and drug policies
-  Students caught using a tobacco product would typically face between 1 and 5 days of out-of-school suspension while students caught using a marijuana product would face a much longer suspension (for first time violations).

### New Policy from OSPI

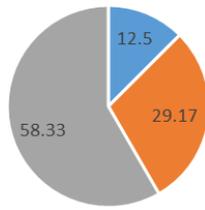
-  In July 2019, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) released new rules stating that schools and school districts could no longer use suspension as a form of discipline for first time violations for substance abuse, including tobacco and marijuana violations.
-  Additionally, a school cannot mandate a student to submit to a drug test and attend drug counseling in order to receive a shorter out-of-school suspension sentence.
-  While many schools knew these rules were coming, they can still be a challenge to administer for a variety of reasons.

### Substance Use Policy in Snohomish County Schools

-  In the fall of 2019, the Snohomish Health District conducted a survey of middle and high schools in Snohomish County to determine their policies regarding student discipline on vaping products.

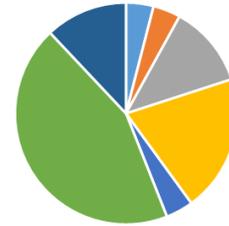


Does your school have a prevention/interventionist or a drug & alcohol counselor?



■ Yes, we have someone full time ■ Yes, we have someone part time ■ No

Have you made physical changes to your school environment to prevent students from vaping?



■ installed security cameras ■ temporarily or permanently closed bathrooms ■ increased staff visibility inside or near bathrooms ■ Other ■ installed vape sensors ■ locked open or removed outside bathroom doors ■ None of these

-  All schools reported that they confiscated the vapor device, e-liquid, and other paraphernalia.
-  About 30% of schools reported that they required students to return to school during non-school hours (either Saturday school or staying late) to complete tobacco and vapor prevention work. Examples of vapor prevention work given include: completing an assignment, SPORT intervention, VapeEducate, ATOD, and nicotine course on 3rd millennial.
-  30% of schools reported that they required students to meet with a school staff member to discuss tobacco and vapes and receive a vapor prevention message.
-  About half of the schools are suspending students for a marijuana first offense while the other half are working to implement policies similar to vaping nicotine.
-  Almost 60% of schools do not have any prevention/interventionist or drug and alcohol counselor.
-  Many schools are making some kind of structural changes to discourage student vaping

## Recommendations for School Vaping Policy

-  Work with administration, school staff, parent groups, and community organizations to try to implement policy recommendations from OSPI that remove suspension as an option for first-time vapor offenses for both nicotine and marijuana.
-  Explore alternative options that emphasize building relationships with positive adult role models, learning about resources in the community, and building important skills (such as communication skills, refusal skills, and stress management).