



BELTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O Box 269 Belton, Texas 76513-0269 Ph: (254) 215-2000 Fax: (254) 215-2001

Dr. Robin Battershell
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians,

REGARDING: VAPING AND THC

We are committed to providing a safe and productive learning environment for our children.

In May 2019, we asked for your support in addressing a growing concern regarding e-cigarettes and/or vaping devices at school and school-related events. Since that time, BISD has

- led student focus groups to evaluate the effectiveness of anti-drug education efforts,
- offered parent informational sessions, and
- provided training for all secondary staff on the use and/or possession of these devices.

Over the next few weeks, Belton ISD will install specialized detection sensors at secondary campuses. These sensors detect nicotine, THC, and smoke among other things and immediately alert school administrators. We will also increase the presence of drug dogs.

Be aware that the possession of any amount of THC concentrate is a felony in Texas, leading to a mandatory expulsion and Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) placement for up to 180 successful school days.

A new Texas law, effective on September 1, 2019, raised the legal age for vaping or smoking to 21, unless active-duty military. This new law means that it is now illegal for any student born after December 19, 2019, to purchase or use these products.

All e-cigarettes or vaping devices are prohibited on Belton ISD property at any time. Possession of a device will result in a discipline action, as outlined in the Belton ISD Student Code of Conduct, available at www.bisd.net/studentcodeofconduct.

We ask for your help in addressing these important issues with your students. Please learn about the effects of using e-cigarettes and vaping devices and spend time talking to your student about the use of these products. You can find more informational resources at www.bisd.net/safety.

Sincerely,

Robin Battershell
Interim Superintendent of Schools