



NEW STATE LAW REGARDING MARIJUANA IN SCHOOL ZONES

[Act 305 Informational Flyer](#)

Dear Families,

We are writing to ensure that every household is aware of significant changes to Louisiana state law that took effect on August 1, 2026. Act 305 of the 2026 Regular Session has established much stricter criminal penalties for the possession or use of marijuana on or near school campuses.

Significant Increase in Penalties

Previously, possessing small amounts of marijuana (14 grams or less) was often treated as a fine-only offense enforced by a summons. Under the new law, this conduct now carries a penalty of imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for up to one year, and may include a fine of up to \$1,000. Because the sentence can be imposed at hard labor, the offense is now classified as a felony.

Where the Law Applies

The "Drug Free Zone" established by this statute is extensive. These strict penalties apply to any violation occurring:

- On school property.
- Within 2,000 feet of school property, which includes many streets, sidewalks, bus stops, and local parks.
- On a school bus.

It is critical to understand that the law specifically states that "lack of knowledge" regarding whether the act occurred within 2,000 feet of school property is not a legal defense.

Inclusion of Vaping and THC Pens

Act 305 explicitly includes individuals who are "smoking, vaping, or otherwise abusing" controlled substances in these areas. This means a student found using a THC vape pen in a restroom, locker room, parking lot, or on a bus is subject to these new felony-level criminal penalties.

School Discipline vs. Criminal Prosecution

While our school system maintains its own disciplinary procedures and expulsion hearing processes, these are entirely separate from the criminal legal system. A school's decision regarding a student's enrollment does not resolve or reduce their exposure to these new criminal charges. Under current law, a first occurrence of marijuana possession may lead to a recommendation for expulsion at the

school system's discretion, while a second occurrence requires a minimum expulsion of two complete semesters and a mandatory referral to the district attorney.

We encourage you to discuss these changes with your child to ensure they fully understand the serious legal consequences of these actions. Our goal is to maintain a safe, drug-free environment where all students can focus on their education without the risk of life-altering legal exposure.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our schools and community safe.

With Regards,
TPSS Administration