

**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
LOUVERTURE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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May 31, 2023

Third Notice

Dear Louverture Families,

Louverture Elementary School, like many other schools across the country, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving vaping. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue as well as alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping on school property. We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our students and often find that our parents are not aware of the risks around vaping. The increase in vaping prompted us to do more research and we want to share our findings with you.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapor can contain nicotine and other substances which are concerning. Vaporizers/e-cigarettes come in all different shapes and flavors. Some common styles look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items. Like cigarettes, stores cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. However, students report that they purchase the devices online, at local bodegas or from friends.

The Surgeon General reports that nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. We know that using nicotine may make it harder for school related tasks such as learning and concentration. Students may not be aware of the harmful effects of vaping.

Due to the severity of vaping, any child identified with suspicion of being under the influence should be picked up immediately. Using a vape pen or having one in a students' possession is illegal and will incur an automatic three-day suspension. The parent/guardian will be given a copy of resource lists and the SDFS External Assessment Form. The parent MUST have this form completed by an authorized testing facility of a medical provider before the child is able to return to school.

We hope you find this letter informative and that you understand our concerns about this potentially harmful issue. Our goal is to partner with parents to help support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and their future. We encourage you to have conversations with your student(s) about this topic. There will be an assembly to discuss the dangers of vaping with students in grades 3-5. It is my hope that you will talk to your child(ren) about the dangers of vaping and the seriousness and consequences that will follow.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and keeping all of our students safe and healthy.

“Developing Leaders One Student at a Time”