



Olathe Public Schools Takes a Stand Against Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping Products

Quotes from Olathe Public Schools Leadership

- **Statement from Olathe Public Schools:** The Olathe School District is taking action against the vaping epidemic. The top priority of our district is the safety and well-being of its students and staff. Electronic cigarettes and vaping devices pose a significant threat to student health with misleading advertisements targeted toward middle and high school students. It is the district's responsibility to protect its students.
- "As a Board of Education, we have a duty to do what's right for students, the community and our future generations. Vaping is an epidemic and as community leaders, we're taking the lead to protect our students and future leaders. The hidden dangers of vaping are triggering a health crisis and we're taking action." – **Olathe Public Schools Board of Education President Shannon Wickliffe**
- "Our role as a public school district is to provide our students with the best educational environment to help them learn and grow. To protect our students is paramount. Middle and high school students, we believe, have been targeted by e-cigarette and vaping manufacturers with false and misleading advertising. Vaping has caused a significant disruption in our buildings. As smart as our students are, they don't understand the long-term ramifications of vaping and the amount of addictive chemicals they are dealing with. It's our role to protect our students today and in the future." – **Olathe Public Schools Superintendent John Allison**
- The Olathe Public Schools has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of JUUL e-cigarettes, which use, among other things: (i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and prevent such use; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of its students.

Advisory Issued by the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service

- The Surgeon General has issued an Advisory on E-Cigarette use among youth which emphasized "the importance of protecting our children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and associated health risks by immediately addressing the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use," and
- Emphasized that "[t]he recent surge in e-cigarette use among youth, which has been fueled by new types of e-cigarettes that have recently entered the market is a cause for great concern," and
- Concluded that "We must take action now to protect the health of our nation's young people."

Statistics Provided by the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service

- E-cigarette use among U.S. middle and high school students increased 900% during 2011-15.
- In 2018, more than 3.6 million youth, including 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 20 middle school students, currently use e-cigarettes.
- Current e-cigarette use increased 78% among high school students during the past year, from 11.7% in 2017 to 20.8% in 2018.

Facts of the Pending Litigation

- It is important to note that this litigation does not require the Olathe Public Schools to allocate financial resources, that is the responsibility of legal counsel.