



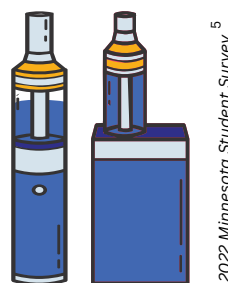
# Support Over Suspension

## Did you know?

A law was passed in Minnesota that raised the minimum legal sales age of tobacco products<sup>1</sup> from 18 to 21 and eliminated all criminal penalties for underage possession, use, or purchase of commercial tobacco products. This law also increased fines for retailers who sell to underage youth.<sup>2</sup>

## What does this mean when I find someone underage possessing or using commercial tobacco?

- Under Tobacco 21 law, this law makes commercial tobacco products less accessible to students without the use of these methods. Under this law, people under 21 cannot receive a ticket or other criminal penalties for possessing commercial tobacco products (including on school grounds).
- Schools should follow their tobacco-free policy when addressing underage commercial tobacco use in schools and on school property. This may be a good time for schools to revisit their policy and determine if it needs to be updated.
- There are several programs available that offer education, peer support groups, and commercial tobacco treatment opportunities that are a great way to support students who may be experiencing addiction to vaping or other commercial tobacco products (see page 2).



2022 Minnesota Student Survey<sup>5</sup>

## From 2019 to 2022, reported youth vaping declined:

- Grade 8:** 6% reported vaping
- Grade 9:** 7% reported vaping
- Grade 11:** 14% reported vaping

## Are you interested in updating or reviewing your tobacco-free policy?

Visit the Tobacco-Free Schools Guide below.<sup>3</sup>

## Wondering where you can dispose of student vapes?

Check out the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency below.<sup>4</sup>

## What are commercial tobacco products?

Commercial tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, hookah, smokeless or spit tobacco, and vape products.<sup>1</sup>

It does not include the sacred and traditional use of tobacco by American Indians and other groups.



## Why were possession, use, and purchase (PUP) penalties taken out of state law?

- PUP penalties have not been proven to reduce commercial tobacco use.
- These penalties divert focus from addressing irresponsible retailers and the commercial tobacco industry which has a long history of targeting youth.
- There is clear consensus from national health organizations that commercial tobacco policies should not include these penalties.

## Sources:

1. **FDA Tobacco Product Definition:** <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/products-guidance-regulations/products-ingredients-components>
2. **Tobacco 21 and Other Statutory Changes:** <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/MN-Tobacco-21-FAQ.pdf>
3. **Tobacco Free Schools Guide:** <https://www.ansrmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/K-12-Schools-Tobacco-Free-Policy-Guide-2021.pdf>
4. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:** <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-65.pdf>
5. **2022 Minnesota Student Survey Data:** <https://education.mn.gov/mde/dse/health/mss/>

Program	More Information
 <p>My Life, My Quit™</p>	<p>Youth ages 13-18 can access free tobacco treatment services through My Life, My Quit (MLMQ) supported by the MN Department of Health. Features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FREE continuing education offered for school staff, on tobacco treatment for youth at “<a href="https://CoursesThatClickMN.com">CoursesThatClickMN.com</a>”;</li> <li>• MLMQ can be used as an alternative to suspension program; and</li> <li>• Posters and other promotional materials can be accessed here: <a href="https://mylifemyquit.com/Resource_pages/resources">https://mylifemyquit.com/Resource_pages/resources</a></li> </ul>
	<p>This is Quitting is a free and anonymous text messaging program from Truth Initiative designed to help young people quit vaping. Features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is Quitting is tailored based on age (within 13 to 24 years old) and product usage to give teens and young adults appropriate recommendations about quitting; and</li> <li>• Free promotional materials are available to promote This is Quitting within schools and local communities can be access here: <a href="https://truthinitiative.org/this-is-quitting-resources">https://truthinitiative.org/this-is-quitting-resources</a></li> </ul>
	<p><u>The Escape the Vape Video Challenge</u> is a PSA video contest where Minnesota 6th-12th graders can use their voice to raise awareness about the dangers of vaping and expose the shadowy commercial tobacco marketing tactics behind it. Students create and upload their 30-second, vape-bashing masterpiece, and have the chance to win \$500 for them and \$500 for their school or organization, along with other great prizes. #mnjointheescape</p>
	<p>The <u>Stanford Medicine Tobacco Prevention Toolkit</u> is a free theory-based and evidence-informed curriculums and resources created by educators, parents, youth and researchers aimed at preventing middle and high school students' use of tobacco and nicotine. The toolkit includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You and Me, Together Vape-Free Curriculum</li> <li>• Healthy Futures Curriculum: Alternative-to-Suspension Curriculum</li> <li>• Smokeless Tobacco 101</li> <li>• Hookah 101</li> <li>• Factsheets and posters</li> </ul>
	<p><u>INDEPTH</u> is a FREE interactive program that teaches students about nicotine dependence, establishing healthy alternatives and how to kick the unhealthy addiction that got them in trouble in the first place. How it works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools connect with the American Lung Association</li> <li>• Facilitators completed an online INDEPTH training</li> <li>• Facilitators prepare and implement the INDEPTH program</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Vape, Educate</u> is an online course originally designed to be completed by middle and high school students. It can be purchased and used as an educational program for teachers, parents, and other community members. The program is intended to be used as a tool that provides supplemental material to educate students about vaping.</p>
	<p>As part of the <u>Don't Blow It: Anti-vaping Campaign</u>, Essentia Health developed a toolkit that can be used by teachers and community groups to educate students and the general public about the dangers of vaping.</p>

