**Did you know?**

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

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

- Under Tobacco 21 law, people under 21 cannot receive a ticket or other criminal penalties for possessing tobacco products (including on school grounds). This law makes tobacco products less accessible to students without the use of these methods.

- 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 tobacco treatment opportunities that are a great way to support students who may be experiencing addiction to vaping or other tobacco products (see page 2).

### What are commercial tobacco products?

Commercial tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, hookah, smokeless or spit tobacco, and vape products.¹

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

### From 2016 to 2019, youth vaping rates skyrocketed:

- **Grade 8:** 95% increase
- **Grade 9:** 75% increase
- **Grade 11:** 54% increase

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

You can visit the Tobacco-Free Schools Guide³ below or contact

**Wondering where you can dispose of student vapes?** Check out the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (link 4) below.

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

- Penalties on underage possession, use and purchase have not been proven to reduce tobacco use.

- These penalties divert focus from addressing irresponsible retailers and the tobacco industry which has a long history of targeting youth. They also might increase negative interactions between young people of color and law enforcement.

- There is clear consensus from national health organizations that tobacco policies should not include these penalties.

**Sources:**


2. Tobacco 21 and Other Statutory Changes: www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/MinnesotaTobacco21FAQ.pdf


4. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-65.pdf

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Online/In-Person</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<th>Website / Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>My Life, My Quit</td>
<td>Quit coaching via text, chat or call</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Youth aged 13-18 who want to quit</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Self-led</td>
<td>Text ‘Start My Quit’ to 855-891-9989 or <a href="http://www.mylifemyquit.com">www.mylifemyquit.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Depth – American Lung Association</td>
<td>Webinars, handouts, and activities</td>
<td>Four 50-minute lessons</td>
<td>Middle and HS</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Trained adult</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lung.org">www.lung.org</a> /INDEPTH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't Blow It – Essential Toolkit</td>
<td>Online video (1), pre- and post-tests, group discussion option</td>
<td>20-30 min., 35 if you do the group discussion questions</td>
<td>HS, education and prevention</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Educators</td>
<td><a href="http://www.essentiahealth.org/services/tobacco-cessation/dont-blow-it-anti-vaping-campaign/">www.essentiahealth.org/services/tobacco-cessation/dont-blow-it-anti-vaping-campaign/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Real Cost of Vaping – FDA/ Scholastic Toolkit</td>
<td>Online readings (2), videos (5), interactive activity (1), group setting activities (3). 1 family resource page</td>
<td>45 min., more if you include the group activities</td>
<td>Grades 6-8 &amp; 9-12, education and prevention</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Educators</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scholastic.com/youthvapingrisks/index.html">www.scholastic.com/youthvapingrisks/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch My Breath</td>
<td>In person – PPT, discussions and activities</td>
<td>Four 40-min. lessons</td>
<td>Grades 5-6, 7-8 &amp; HS, education and prevention</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Educators – need trained facilitator (free for the “basic” training)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.letsgo.catch.org/bundles/23725">www.letsgo.catch.org/bundles/23725</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vape, Educate</td>
<td>Online modules and mini quizzes in-between, final exam at the end Includes vaping and marijuana education</td>
<td>5 hours total</td>
<td>Middle and HS students</td>
<td>Starting at $20 for each version</td>
<td>Different versions for parents, educators, and community orgs</td>
<td><a href="https://vapeeducate.com/">https://vapeeducate.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking Down Tobacco – Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids</td>
<td>Online webinars and videos</td>
<td>Approx. 90 min.</td>
<td>Middle and HS students</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Self-led</td>
<td><a href="http://www.takingdowntobacco.org">www.takingdowntobacco.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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