

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD to raise awareness of vaping health risks with districtwide campaign for students

Dec. 12, 2019 – The Houston Independent School District will observe its first-ever Vaping Prevention Week Dec. 16-19 to highlight the risks associated with vaping and e-cigarette use and to spread the word about the dangers to children.

Campuses across the district will focus on a different educational activity each day to raise awareness:

- **Dec. 16:** Campus staff will share HISD's [anti-vaping PSA](#) with middle and high school students to start a conversation about prevention and awareness.
- **Dec. 17:** Students will investigate the toxic ingredients contained in e-cigarettes and the short- and long-term side effects of each chemical on the human body.
- **Dec. 18:** Students will interview an adult about their experiences and knowledge about vaping. Students will share what they have learned with their peers.
- **Dec. 19:** Students will create an eye-catching warning label for e-cigarettes, with the goal of informing buyers about the reality and potential dangers of the product.

During HISD's Vaping Prevention Week, students and staff are also encouraged to share photos, videos, and messages of support on social media using #SayNoToVaping and #HISDEmpowers.

Tobacco and e-cigarette use are prohibited at all HISD schools and facilities, buses, playgrounds, and at athletic and after-school events. Students in possession of or found to be using vaping or e-cigarette devices are disciplined according to the [HISD Student Code of Conduct](#). Also, a new state law that took effect Sept. 1, 2019 raises the legal age for vaping or smoking in Texas to 21.

The safety and well-being of students is the top priority for the district. HISD also encourages parents to have conversations with their children on the dangers of the growing epidemic of vaping.

The HISD Office of Student Support Services offers resources and helpful information on issues students are facing – including vaping – through a program called Let's Connect. The Let's

Connect initiative encourages students in HISD to reach out to a trusted adult on their campus, such as a teacher, social worker, nurse, counselor, principal, or librarian.

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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