

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: THE VAPING EPIDEMIC

COMMITTEE: ACADEMIC, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

On April 25, 2018 agenda item H-3 titled Drug Prevention, New Challenges and Policy Provisions was approved. Meanwhile e-cigarette usage among minors in our schools continues to grow. The FDA just reported that more than 2 million middle and high school students used e-cigarettes in 2017 and nearly 10.7 million teens are at risk for e-cigarette use and potential addiction. The FDA sees it as an epidemic and has started a new educational campaign. If we don't stop this in our schools, we may easily see a new generation of addicts.

New research has started to shed light that e-cigarettes can be just as or more dangerous and addicting than tobacco products. In a recent Journal of Pediatrics published study, the authors' findings showed there were 5 cancer causing toxins in the urine of 16 year olds who inhaled e-cigarette vapor. Other studies are coming out to show these products are extremely addicting and lead minors to experimenting with other substances. There is an additional issue of vaping with illegal substances which further exacerbates the problem.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) have begun many steps to address protecting the next generation. The past few months M-DCPS looked at installing sensors, and some students pledged to not use e-cigarettes. Also, parents and students received information about the hazards of e-cigarettes. M-DCPS should review what has been effective thus far for some students, and see if it could be implemented for every age appropriate student.

Outreach efforts to parents need to be increased to promote greater awareness of what the products look like and the dangers associated with its usage, so they become part of the solution. School staff needs to be educated to identify the devices associated with usage in an effort to reduce or eliminate them from bathrooms, lunchrooms, classrooms or any part of our school campuses. Vaping on school property must no longer be tolerated.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Implement mandatory training for school staff on how to identify vaping devices and establish proper measures to eliminate them from school campuses;
2. Educate parents about the vaping devices so they can identify them and be updated on the new research showing these products being dangerous and addicting;
3. Inform students of the risks and possible health effects of e-cigarettes and ask all students to sign a pledge to not use e-cigarettes and vaping devices;
4. Seek grants and partnerships with entities including The Children's Trust, the Health and Wellness Advisory Committee, municipalities, and the County to help with the above efforts; and
5. Provide a response by the February 2019 School Board meeting.