



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy JCDA – Student Tobacco Use Update

To include:

Student Possession of Vaping Devices or Paraphernalia Consequences

The Polk School District (PSD) has experienced a significant increase in the use of vaping devices by students. We have had student related offenses involving marijuana or THC that resulted in disciplinary actions. Many of these offenses were directly related to vaping.

Several of these vaping incidents have led to medical emergencies involving students being transported to the hospital. In addition to the potential health risks, it is illegal for students under the age of 18 to use vaping devices or to purchase vaping paraphernalia. Polk School District’s Policy JCDA – Student Tobacco Use addresses the prohibition of vaping at school.

Policy JCDA – Student Tobacco Use

In accordance with the "Georgia Smoke Free Air Act of 2005," no student, staff member, school visitor, or volunteer is permitted to possess or use any tobacco product at any time. This restriction prohibits the possession, use, ignition, burning, chewing, igniting, inhaling, vaping, or oral use or consumption of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water-pipes, blunts, tobacco, tobacco leaves, dip snuff, nicotine gum, hookah, and/or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS or Electric Cigarettes). This includes non-school hours 24 hours per day, seven days per week:

- In any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the Polk School District;*
- On any school grounds and property - including athletic fields and parking lots - owned, leased, rented or chartered by the Polk School District; or*
- At any school-sponsored or school-related event on-campus or off-campus.*

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct, and/or the student/parent handbook.

Please be aware that the Polk School District will apply the following consequences to students for vaping or being in possession of a vaping device. This update will be effective immediately on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VAPING OR POSSESSION OF VAPING DEVICE(S)	
1st Offense	5 Days Out-of-School Suspension
2nd Offense	10 Days Out-of-School Suspension
3rd Offense	10 Days Out-of-School Suspension and Recommendation for Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

A vaping device with THC or any other type of illegal drug will result in a 1st Offense minimum consequence of 10 days out-of-school suspension which could also include a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion.

The district asks that all parents and guardians talk with your children at home about the possible health risks related to vaping and the newly updated consequences for vaping and possession of vaping devices. Should you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child’s school principal.