

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Neshaminy School District administration believes that it is important we share information about some current trends that could be harmful to your children. You may have noticed that some adolescents are using Hookah Pens and E Cigarettes and they are under the assumption that this practice doesn't cause harm to them. We would like to update you on what these items are and the negative impact they can have on your children.

A Hookah Pen is a disposable electronic vaporizer e-cigarette that is filled with a liquid that is often fruit flavored, and gives you between 500-600 puffs. Hookah pens do not produce tar or chemicals and the "smoke" you inhale is actually water vapor.

Electronic cigarettes, often called e-cigarettes, are battery-operated devices designed to look like regular tobacco cigarettes. Like their conventional counterparts, electronic cigarettes contain nicotine, and come in different flavors. Here's how they work: An atomizer heats a liquid containing nicotine, turning it into a vapor that can be inhaled and creating a vapor cloud that resembles cigarette smoke.

You must be of legal smoking age in most areas to buy either one of these items.

Neither device is allowed in any of our schools and consequences will be given that are similar to what would be given if cigarettes are brought on school property.

It is important to reiterate that e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Some adults use them as smoking cessation tools, similar to gum or patches, however, any amount of nicotine is unsafe for adolescents. The e-cigarettes introduce nicotine to adolescents who might not ever consider smoking and therefore increases the potential for addiction.

As always, we will keep you informed of any new trends that could cause harm to your children. We believe that our joint efforts to maintain a safe environment for them can set a healthy foundation for them to grow into healthy adults.

If you would like additional information about this topic, please contact our District Student Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Peggy Gale, at 215-809-6514.