

Austin ISD
School Health Advisory Council



Health Education Subcommittee Recommendation on Vaping
May 1, 2019

Background:

As you know there is concern coming from parents in the Anderson vertical, and also from P.E. teachers around the district. The Health Ed Subcommittee believes that vaping and e-cigs are a rapidly growing issue which can best be addressed in a fashion similar to previous anti-smoking efforts which were district wide, where principals and SROs lead the campus wide training and there was a full Coordinated School Health response to the effort. Unfortunately, it seems many students do not equate use of vape devices, Juuls, and other e-cigs as a serious health risk and many do not realize it is a form of tobacco use which is highly addictive. Additionally, parents are often unaware of the addictive nature of these devices, and do not know the health risks associated with their use. The subcommittee believes it truly is in our students' best interest to have a community wide response to this.

Recommendation:

SHAC approves the motion of the Health Ed subcommittee recommendation that the Board of Trustees support the implementation of a districtwide Coordinated School Health approach to vaping. This approach would include using Catch My Breath <https://catchinfo.org/modules/e-cigarettes/> in schools because it is a proven program which is readily available and free. Principals and SROs would lead the training in their schools and ensure that Catch my Breath training would occur on their campuses. Additionally, parent support specialists would be relied on to educate parents, as would PTSAs to provide information in the broader school community, PALS programs would use peer led efforts to educate students, school counselors and nurses would continue to support awareness in the schools and in the community.

At the May 1, 2019 SHAC meeting, members passed a motion to approve the recommendation to the Board of Trustees to support the implementation of a districtwide Coordinated School Health approach to vaping.

Sincerely,
Sarah Bentley, SHAC Co-Chair
Rachel Guzman, SHAC Co-Chair