



## **Waterloo Central School District**

**Terri Bavis, Superintendent of Schools**  
**109 Washington Street Waterloo, NY 13165**  
**(315) 539-3456**

January 22, 2018

Dear Waterloo Families,

I write to you today with concern over the increase in drug activity we are seeing at our High School. As a nation, the opioid crisis is at a critical level. Here in Waterloo, we are a microcosm of our community, which has also seen a drastic increase in drug activity, heroin use, marijuana use and synthetic drugs used in vaping.

As you know, our Board Policy and Waterloo Code of Conduct are clear about the use of drugs, vapes, smoking and alcohol on school property. No drug, in any form, is tolerated in our schools. Our Board of Education has taken a strong stance on suspensions related to drug use in our schools, as has our administration. Vaping is a relatively new phenomenon in our schools. Last year it was specifically added to our Code of Conduct as a prohibited activity. To date, our consequences around the use of vaping had been parallel to those for smoking tobacco on school property, and the consequences for vaping, based on the specifics around each incident, had been predominantly in school suspensions. While it is always my preference to keep students in school, drug use, or drug possession, will not be tolerated on campus. Students who choose to use, or possess drugs on school property will face the most serious consequences we can give, including long term suspensions and expulsion for repeated offenses. Drugs have no place in our schools. They are a complete distraction and carry serious health consequences.

The use of vapes, as well as the possession of vapes or vaping paraphernalia, as with all drug offenses, will now carry a consequence of a minimum of five days out of school suspension and a Superintendent's Hearing.

Please be aware that we are here to support your child in their education, including drug and alcohol education, counseling services and mental health support. If you feel your child needs these services, please contact your child's Counselor or Building Principal.

Each of us at Waterloo Central School District, is here to be a partner with you in your child's education, to support your child and your family in any way we can. We do, however, need your help, to combat the drug issues in our schools. We need you to partner with us and to support us in our efforts to end the drug problem in our schools.

Attached to this letter is information about the dangers of vaping and how it can impact your child's health.

We look forward to our continued partnership in keeping all Waterloo Central School District Students safe and healthy.

As always, should you have questions or concerns, please contact me at (315) 539-3456.

Sincerely,

Terri Bavis