



**State Board of Education Resolution  
On Protecting our Students from Big Tobacco  
SR 20-2**

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all District of Columbia students acquire the skills and knowledge to lead healthy, productive lives;

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the State Board of Education voted on the Health Education Standards that outline expectations for awareness and behaviors regarding the use of nicotine and other drugs;

**WHEREAS**, the Surgeon General of the United States has stated that the nicotine in e-cigarettes can harm the developing brain, impact learning, memory, and attention, and increase risk for future addiction to other drugs;

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, while the youth cigarette smoking rate has dropped to a historic low of 5.8%, because of e-cigarettes' enticing flavors, aggressive marketing, and high levels of nicotine, 27.5% of high school students nationally report having tried e-cigarettes in the past 30 days;

**WHEREAS**, 21.4% of current e-cigarette users in high school and 8.8% of users in middle school report daily e-cigarette use;

**WHEREAS**, 72.2% of high school students that use e-cigarettes report using flavored products;

**WHEREAS**, JUUL Labs is alleged to have targeted youth through flavored tobacco products and advertising campaigns that mislead consumers about the highly addictive quality of their products, according to District of Columbia Attorney General Karl A. Racine in a lawsuit against the major e-cigarette manufacturer;

**WHEREAS**, the 2017 D.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found that 16% of middle school students and 29% of high school students reported ever using an electronic vapor product in their lifetime; and that more high school and middle school students in the District report using e-cigarettes than regular cigarettes;

**WHEREAS**, the D.C. Department of Health in October 2019 confirmed the death of at least one District resident associated with vaping and advised residents to stop using e-cigarettes;

**WHEREAS**, there are currently three bills regarding the restriction of selling and distributing electronic smoking devices currently under D.C. Council review; and,

**WHEREAS**, parents, schools, students and public health organizations, including the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, the DC Tobacco-Free





Coalition, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and the NAACP Washington, DC Branch have called on the D.C. Council to take action.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the D.C. State Board of Education recognizes the dangers of using e-cigarettes and other vaping devices on student health and wellness;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the D.C. State Board of Education calls for stronger tobacco and vaping education in all public and public charter schools in the District so as to better inform students of the consequences and dangers of using these products;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the D.C. State Board of Education calls upon the D.C. Council to take all flavored tobacco products off the market.

Date Adopted: 1/16/20 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

