

MEMO

TO: Parents and Guardians of Franklinton High School Students

FROM: Jennifer Griffith (LadyJ), Principal at FHS

RE: Marijuana and vape use in the FHS Community

Dear Families,

Since the legalization of marijuana in the state of Ohio, it has become normal for some adults to use marijuana frequently and this sends a confusing message to young people who may come to believe that they can also use marijuana throughout the day, including at school. Franklinton High School takes no position on legal adult behavior with respect to marijuana and vape products outside of our school. However, I would like to clarify the law and our responsibilities as a school with respect to the use of marijuana and its impact on our students and our school.

ILLEGAL BELOW AGE 21

According to the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, the Ohio statute as of October 23, 2024 states:

- In Ohio, the use or possession of marijuana is **ILLEGAL** for anyone under the age of 21.
- All citizens of Ohio are prohibited from smoking, vaping, or using any other combustible marijuana product while in a vehicle, motor vehicle, streetcar, trolley, bike, watercraft, or aircraft.

SCHOOL RESPONSE

Last year, we have had multiple instances of students arriving at school in vehicles where the driver or other passengers were illegally using marijuana. As a consequence of being in an enclosed space with marijuana smoke, these students came into our school reeking of marijuana and the smell permeated the entire front office and classroom areas. Due to the negative impact of this behavior on our school's community, I am sharing this memo to clearly state what actions FHS will take whenever a student arrives at school smelling of marijuana due to the actions of the driver or passenger in the vehicle that transported the student to school:

- 1) The student must change their clothing - we can provide a clean t-shirt or sweatshirt.
- 2) The student must wash their hands and face and, if possible, tie up their hair.
- 3) The student must store their clothing in a plastic bag and place it outside the building in the fire escape stairwell for retrieval by the student at the end of the school day.

Students who do not wish to comply with this process OR who are under the influence of marijuana themselves will be removed from the building and parents will be notified to pick them up. The student will be asked to wait outside the building. Please refer to Policy JFD: Progressive Self-Governance for other possible Level 4 consequences of illegal behavior on school grounds. (All school policies are on the school webpage.)

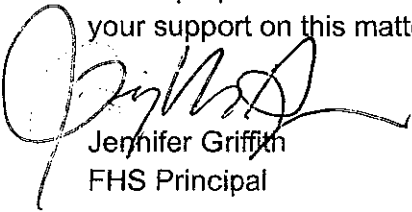
HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

1. Have a conversation with your child about the harmful effects of using marijuana before the age of 25.
2. Do not let your child carry marijuana in any form to school. This may require you to search their bags and pockets prior to coming to school, particularly if you know your child to be a regular user of marijuana or vape products.
3. Support your child by forbidding the illegal use of marijuana and vapes. Marijuana use before the age of 25 is extremely harmful to brain development.
4. If you are a regular user of marijuana, do not use it around your child until they have been delivered to school so that they do not enter our building smelling of weed.

MANDATED REPORTING

IMPORTANT: All staff members at Franklinton High School are mandated reporters. If a student repeatedly comes to school smelling of marijuana - either through their own illegal use or from the illegal use of marijuana by others in a vehicle - FHS staff members are legally required to report this situation to Child Protective Services.

At Franklinton High School, we are committed to the education, well-being, and safety of all of our students and staff. Illegal behavior and the harmful impacts of young people using marijuana and vape products cannot be a part of our community environment. We expect and appreciate your support on this matter.



Jennifer Griffith
FHS Principal