

August 2025



# Vape-Free Schools Toolkit



Tobacco Prevention  
and Cessation



# Introduction



Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health

Tobacco Prevention  
and Cessation

This toolkit provides resources for Indiana school staff, including administrators, teachers and health services staff, who are working to address the use of tobacco products, especially e-cigarettes in schools. This toolkit outlines opportunities for action that can be taken by various school staff with support of community partners.

The Indiana Department of Health Tobacco Prevention and Cessation program and network of local partners are ready to assist your school with these resources.

**317.234.1787 | [in.gov/vapefreeindiana](https://in.gov/vapefreeindiana) | [in.gov/health/tpc](https://in.gov/health/tpc)**



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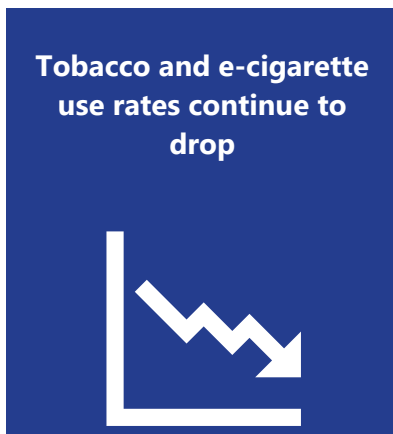
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## Youth Tobacco Use

Preventing youth from using tobacco products saves lives, reduces healthcare costs, and strengthens Indiana's future. Early tobacco use can lead to lifelong addiction and cause serious health issues, including cardiovascular damage, impaired lung development, and weakened immune function.

The 2024 Indiana Youth Tobacco Survey shows continued declines in youth tobacco use, with high school e-cigarette use at its lowest since 2012. Despite this progress, concerns remain as flavored tobacco products, frequent e-cigarette use among youth that currently use e-cigarettes, and the rising popularity of oral nicotine pouches indicate ongoing risks for nicotine addiction among youth. Additionally, many youths who have never used tobacco products are susceptible to future use, reinforcing the importance of continued prevention efforts. More on the 2024 IYTS can be found in the appendix.



## E-Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are battery-operated devices that heat a liquid to produce an aerosol that users inhale. This aerosol typically contains nicotine, flavorings, and other additives. The term e-cigarette is often used to describe a broad class of products known as electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), which includes electronic cigars (e-cigars), electronic hookahs (e-hookahs), vapor (vape) pens, and similar devices. E-cigarettes continue to be the most commonly used tobacco product among youth.

Between 2016 and 2018, current e-cigarette use nearly doubled among Indiana youth. The 2024 Indiana Youth Tobacco Survey reported that youth e-cigarette use rates have reached their lowest levels since 2012. In 2024, 5.0% of high school students and 2.4% of middle school students reported current use of e-cigarettes. However, e-cigarettes remain the leading tobacco product among Hoosier youth and youth nationwide. Among youth who currently use e-cigarettes, nearly 46% of high school students and 27.3% of middle school students reported frequent use—defined as using e-cigarettes on 20 or more of the past 30 days—an indication of nicotine dependence. Flavored products continue to drive youth appeal, with 72.1% of high school and 62.6% of middle school e-cigarette users reporting flavored use.

Nicotine pouches, while still relatively new, are gaining popularity among youth. In 2024, 5.0% of high school students reported ever trying nicotine pouches, up from 2.3% in 2022, and 1.5% reported current use. These trends underscore the importance of continued surveillance and prevention efforts targeting emerging nicotine products.

Nearly all e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm the developing adolescent brain. Because the brain is still developing until about age 25, youth and young adult exposure to nicotine can lead to addiction and disrupt attention and learning. No amount of nicotine is safe for youth.

## Signs of Vaping and Addiction

Knowing the signs and symptoms of vaping and addiction can help you see when a student needs help.

### Signs of vaping:

- Increased secrecy: Unwilling to discuss or answer questions.
- Increased unwillingness to stay home/increased bathroom breaks.
- Increased thirst: Vaping causes dehydration of the skin of the mouth and throat.
- Desire for flavor. When the mouth is dried out, flavor perception is lost.
- Nosebleeds: In addition to dry mouth, vaping also dries the skin of the nose.
- Finding paraphernalia around the house or in their possession.

### Signs of nicotine addiction:

- Needing to vape after waking up in the morning
- Feeling anxious or irritable due to cravings
- Vaping without thinking about it
- Having trouble concentrating or sleeping
- Thinking about vaping throughout the day
- Vaping after learning the health risks

\*FDA, Center for Tobacco Products

## Dual Use

Young people who use two or more tobacco products are at higher risk for developing nicotine dependence and might be more likely to continue using tobacco into adulthood. In 2024, 22.7% of middle school and 24.9% of high school students who use tobacco reported using two or more products.



## Review and Strengthen Current Policy

Tobacco-free spaces are a proven way to prevent youth tobacco use and protect students, faculty, and visitors from secondhand smoke. Tobacco-free schools are one way to address the increasing popularity of e-cigarettes and other vaping devices among youth. A tobacco-free school policy prohibits any tobacco use by students, all school staff, parents, and visitors on school property, in school vehicles, and at school-sponsored functions away from school property 24 hours a day. Additionally, a tobacco-free school policy should include effective and holistic enforcement options for student violations, beyond suspension and expulsion, such as education, treatment support and meaningful community work.

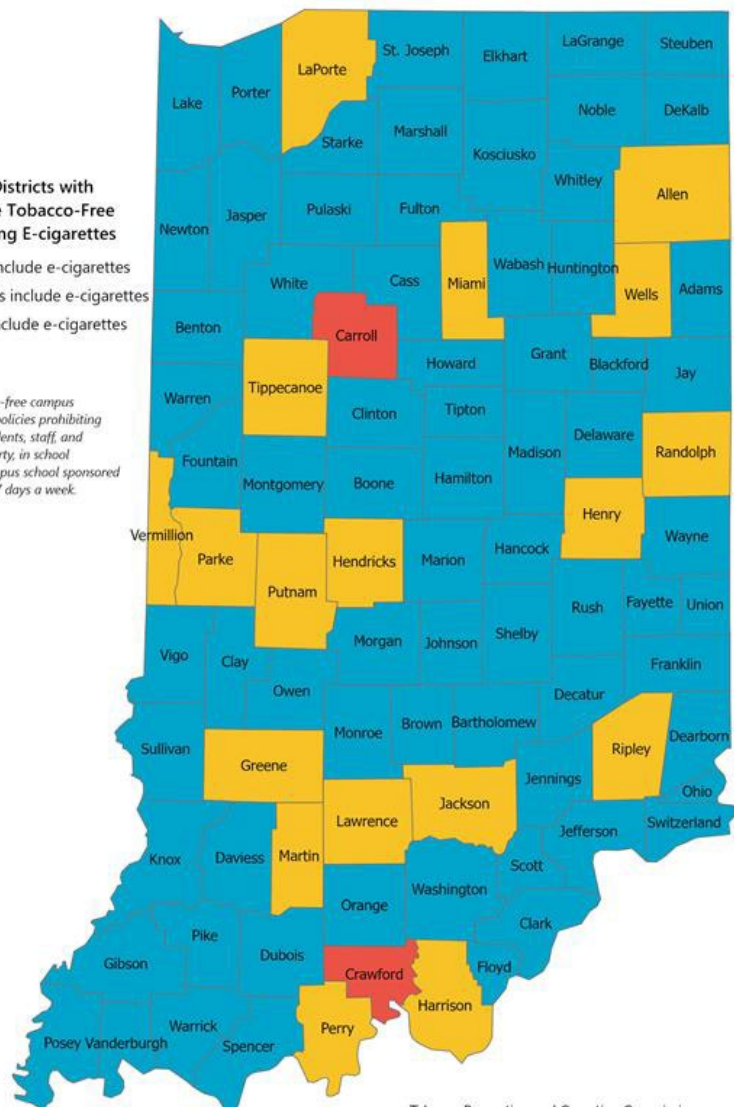
[Full list](#) of Indiana tobacco free schools.

## Indiana Tobacco Free Schools

### Public School Districts with Comprehensive Tobacco-Free Policies Including E-cigarettes

- No districts include e-cigarettes
- Some districts include e-cigarettes
- All districts include e-cigarettes

*Comprehensive tobacco-free campus policies are defined as policies prohibiting any tobacco use by students, staff, and visitors on school property, in school vehicles, and at off-campus school sponsored events, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*



Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commission

## Tobacco-Free School Policy Checklist

In order for a school campus to be recognized as being tobacco-free, the language of the school's policy must express or imply that:

- **Include the prohibition of all tobacco products, including the prohibition of electronic products, THC products such as Delta 8, 9 and 10, and heated and other emerging products**
- **The adopted policy is effective 24 hours a day**
- **school buildings are tobacco-free**
- **school grounds are tobacco-free**
- **school vehicles are tobacco-free**
- **all students are subject to the policy's regulations**
- **all staff are subject to the policy's regulations**
- **all parents and visitors are subject to the policy's regulations**

Schools are also encouraged to include additional components, such as:

- **Require consistent enforcement and define consequences for violations of the policy for students, staff, and visitors**
- **Provide referrals to resources to help students and staff overcome addiction to nicotine and use of tobacco and vape products**
- **Provide annual notification of the tobacco-free and vape-free policy in school materials, including: handbooks, manuals, contracts, newsletters, and websites**
- **Require tobacco education for staff**
- **Make announcements about the policy at school-sponsored events**
- **Require tobacco education for students in the health education curriculum**
- **Provide supportive discipline options (non-punitive) for positive student outcomes**

## Other Items for Schools to Consider

- Educate parents, students and staff about electronic products, including the dangers of vaping
- Incorporate information on electronic products into health education classes and curriculum.
- Treatment resources - help appropriate school personnel, such as nurses and substance use counselors, understand available treatment resources.
- Provide youth engagement and empowerment training and opportunities. (Visit [VOICEIndiana.org](http://VOICEIndiana.org))

# Alternative to Suspension: Evidence-based alternatives to suspension and expulsion



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Student tobacco use, including vaping, is best addressed through a comprehensive approach including policy, education, incorporation of information into the curriculum, making treatment resources available, and youth empowerment and engagement. Incorporating positive and restorative practices is an opportunity to support students in remaining or becoming tobacco-free.

Students are often punished punitively for the use and possession of tobacco products including electronic nicotine delivery devices without any regards to the tobacco industry's history of direct marketing to youth or the phases of addiction.

Tobacco industry documents dating back to as early as the 1950s show that the tobacco industry intentionally and strategically studied and marketed tobacco use to youth in order to recruit "replacement smokers" to stay in business.

According to a 2016 study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* there is specific evidence that e-cigarette marketing exposure is associated with ever and current e-cigarette use among middle and high school students.

Research shows penalties like expulsion and suspension contribute to negative educational and life outcomes, undermining schools' goals for supporting healthy student development. We need more solutions to help students struggling with tobacco addiction, not suspensions. Two decades of research show that out-of-school suspension is an unsound solution. Students who are suspended are far more likely to drop out and get involved with the juvenile justice system.

Using punitive measures like suspension, expulsion and exclusionary discipline to penalize student violations of a school commercial tobacco policy is not reasonable, considering the targeted marketing, science of addiction, and long-term consequences of these methods. Effective school policies attempt to address the underlying addiction to commercial tobacco instead of purely punitive measures, which do not deter continued use and may exacerbate the problem.



The following restorative strategies can be incorporated to address student tobacco policy violations:

1. **Parent/guardian notification of violations and school actions**
2. **Support from school provider, such as a guidance counselor or nurse**
3. **Participation in tobacco education programming or activity**
4. **Participation in school or community service**
5. **Connection to tobacco cessation Treatment (*see Cessation Support for Students*)**
6. **Participation in peer-to-peer engagement opportunities (VOICE Indiana, VOICEIndiana.org)**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most effective approaches to helping youth quit tobacco use is through cessation treatment, and combining it with education is ideal.

Preventing youth tobacco use involves change and impact in various areas, as shown through the Social-Ecological Model as a framework for prevention.

For more background and resources on alternatives to suspension for students please visit:

<https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/Addressing-Student-Commercial-Tobacco-Use-in-Schools-Alternative-Measures-2019.pdf>



\*The Social Ecological Model Source: Adapted from McLeroy, Kenneth R., Daniel Bibeau, Allan Steckler, and Karen Glanz. 1988. "An Ecological Perspective on Health Promotion Programs." *Health Education Quarterly* 15(4): 351-377 and from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). 2015.

# Nicotine Addiction and Youth Mental Health



Tobacco Prevention and Cessation



Youth may turn to vaping to try to deal with stress or anxiety, creating a cycle of nicotine dependence. What may start as social experimentation can become an addiction and that dependence on nicotine can become a source of stress. Youth e-cigarette and cigarette use have been associated with mental health symptoms such as depression.

- The most common reason U.S. middle and high school students give for trying an e-cigarette is “a friend used them.”
- The most common reason youth give for continuing to use e-cigarettes is “I am feeling anxious, stressed, or depressed.”

When a person is dependent on (or addicted to) nicotine and stops using it, their body and brain have to get used to not having nicotine. This can result in temporary symptoms of nicotine withdrawal.

Nicotine withdrawal symptoms include irritability, restlessness, feeling anxious or depressed, trouble sleeping, problems concentrating, and craving nicotine. People may keep using tobacco products to help relieve these symptoms.

## Sources

*Common Withdrawal Symptoms | Quit Smoking | Tips From Former Smokers | CDC*

*Quick Facts on the Risks of E-cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults | CDC*

Vape Free Indiana was developed in 2019 in response to the rise in youth e-cigarette use. Through partnerships with national, state, and local organizations, Vape Free Indiana provides prevention resources (such as this toolkit), media, and cessation interventions to reduce youth vaping across Indiana.

A comprehensive approach, that includes prevention, intervention, public education, and cessation is needed to impact youth vaping.

## VAPE-FREE INDIANA

Indiana's **Multi-Pronged Approach** to addressing the youth vaping epidemic

PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

School Programming


PUBLIC EDUCATION

Mass-Media Campaigns


CESSATION

Quitting Services


**Prevention**



**CATCH MY BREATH**  
YOUTH E-CIGARETTE PREVENTION PROGRAM



Vaping: Know the Truth  
Empowering Students with the Facts on E-cigarettes & Tools to Quit




Stanford MEDICINE | Tobacco Prevention Toolkit


**Alternative to Suspension**

Public Health Law Center

**STUDENT COMMERCIAL TOBACCO USE IN SCHOOLS**  
Alternative Measures



Stanford MEDICINE | Tobacco Prevention Toolkit



American Lung Association.  
INDEPTH.

Mass-media campaigns play a vital role in shifting norms, raising awareness, and empowering youth to make informed choices.

While campaigns such as Behind the Haze and Don't Puff This Stuff are being phased out, select resources will remain available to support continued education.

DontPuffThisStuff.com  
BehindtheHaze.com

Live Vape Free

LiveVapeFree.com

Quit Now Indiana

Text READY to 34191

EX Program:

Text EXPROGRAM to 88709

[in.gov/VapeFreeIndiana](http://in.gov/VapeFreeIndiana)



CATCH My Breath is a best practices youth e-cigarette prevention program. The program provides up-to-date information to teachers, parents, and health professionals to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed decisions about the use of e-cigarettes. CATCH My Breath utilizes a peer-led teaching approach and meets national and state health education standards.

To find a CATCH trainer in your community, call **317-234-1787**.

[catch.org/program/vaping-prevention](https://catch.org/program/vaping-prevention)



**INDEPTH:**  
**An Alternative to Teen  
Nicotine Suspension or Citation**

[lung.org/quit-smoking/helping-teens-quit/indepth](https://lung.org/quit-smoking/helping-teens-quit/indepth)

**Vaping: Know  
the truth**

To educate America's students about the health dangers of e-cigarette use and reverse the pervasive youth vaping epidemic, Truth Initiative and Kaiser Permanente in collaboration with the American Heart Association, have launched a national youth vaping prevention curriculum called Vaping: Know the truth. This free digital learning experience is being developed as part of Truth Initiative's nationally recognized truth campaign and will be made available to schools by leading social impact education innovator, EVERFI.

[truthinitiative.org/curriculum](https://truthinitiative.org/curriculum)



**Stanford**  
MEDICINE

Tobacco Prevention Toolkit  
*Modules for tobacco and nicotine education*

The Tobacco Prevention Toolkit (TPT) is a theory-based and evidence-informed educational resource created by educators and researchers and aimed at preventing middle and high school students' use of tobacco products. This toolkit contains a set of modules focused on e-cigarettes and more. TPT features four main curricula for youth, including You and Me, Together Vape Free, Healthy Futures: Alternative-to-Suspension, Smokeless Tobacco 101, and Hookah 101, in addition to factsheets, posters, and quitting tips for nicotine.

[med.stanford.edu/tobaccopreventiontoolkit/curriculum-decision-maker/by-module/E-Cigs.html](https://med.stanford.edu/tobaccopreventiontoolkit/curriculum-decision-maker/by-module/E-Cigs.html)

<https://med.stanford.edu/tobaccopreventiontoolkit.html>



# Cessation Support for Students



Tobacco Prevention and Cessation

## Download as separate resource



### EX Program

This is Quitting is a mobile application and companion text messaging program designed specifically for young adult smokers and e-cigarette users. The app brings together quit stories from real-life young people, along with entertaining gif posts about quitting, strategies and tips to stay tobacco free, training challenges, and access to free expert counseling 24/7.

text **EXPROGRAM** to **88709**

[exprogram.com](http://exprogram.com)



### Live Vape Free

Live Vape Free is an a text-based stop vaping program for teens. Once enrolled, teens can access interactive content that is quick and easy to use. There are videos, quizzes, assessments and podcasts to help teens find their "why" and help quit vaping. Teens can also get 1-1 support with a professional quit coach. For parents and other supportive adults who want to learn how to support youth and young adults on their quit journey, there are also resources to support them at [livevapefree.com](http://livevapefree.com)

[LiveVapeFree.com](http://LiveVapeFree.com)



### Quit Now Indiana

The program is designed to help teens stop using tobacco permanently. These participants will also receive age-appropriate educational materials and additional help via unlimited access to a toll-free support line that is available 24/7.

[QuitNowIndiana.com/Teens](http://QuitNowIndiana.com/Teens)





## Smoke-Free Teen

This site is designed and run by the National Cancer Institute and provides tobacco cessation information grounded in scientific evidence specifically for teens, aged 13-19 years old.

It offers free tools, including a text messaging program and quitSTART mobile application.

[teen.smokefree.gov](http://teen.smokefree.gov)



## Healthcare Provider

It is always recommended to involve a teen’s primary health care provider to help educate and guide them on a cessation journey.

Asking adolescents about tobacco use and advising them to quit are the first steps toward the use of effective treatments to quit. Health care providers are uniquely positioned to screen for tobacco use in their patients, initiate treatment and connect them to smoking cessation services that are best suited for the patient.

Special considerations for adolescents: It is important for clinicians to intervene with adolescents in a manner that respects confidentiality and privacy (e.g., interviewing adolescents without parents present).

## Summary of Cessation Resources

	Age	Live Support	Phone Counseling	Text Messaging Program	Free
<b>This is Quitting</b>	13-24			✓	✓
<b>Live Vape Free</b>	13-26	✓		✓	✓
<b>Quit Now Indiana</b>	13 and older	✓	✓		✓
<b>Smoke-Free Teen</b>	13-19			✓	✓
<b>Healthcare Provider</b>	All ages	✓			

## [Download as separate resource](#)

### FDA Toolkit for Working with Youth



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has a free toolkit about vaping and e-cigarettes for professionals working with youth. The toolkit contains fast facts about youth vaping as well as tips for how adults can help teens quit vaping. It is available to order, download, or print through the FDA.

[digitalmedia.hhs.gov/tobacco/hosted/  
Vaping-ECigarettes-Youth-Toolkit.pdf](https://digitalmedia.hhs.gov/tobacco/hosted/Vaping-ECigarettes-Youth-Toolkit.pdf)



### 2016 U.S. Surgeon General's Report

This online resource for parents and health care providers is based on the 2016 U.S. Surgeon General's Report on e-cigarette use among youth and young adults. Background information on e-cigarette products, risks of these products, and tips for how to talk to teens about the health risks of e-cigarettes.



### Truth Initiative - Parent Resources

Parents can sign up to receive text messages designed specifically for parents of vapers.

**Text QUIT to (202) 899-7550**



## CATCH My Breath Parent Toolkit

This toolkit is a way for parents to learn more about the vaping epidemic, gauge their child's risk of trying e-cigarettes, and find the best strategy for them to talk to their child about e-cigarettes.

[letsgo.catch.org/pages/CMB-Parent-Resources](https://letsgo.catch.org/pages/CMB-Parent-Resources)



## Health Care Providers

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) resource, Youth Tobacco Cessation: Considerations for Clinicians, is designed to support pediatric health clinicians in screening patients for tobacco use and providing behavioral and pharmacological support to help youth quit.

[Youth Tobacco Cessation Resource Packet for School Health Professionals](#)

[ACT: Ask, Counsel, Treat How to Prevent Student Tobacco Use and Support Student](#)

[Free from Nicotine: Making a Quit Plan Infographic](#)

[aap.org/en/patient-care/tobacco-control-and-prevention/](https://aap.org/en/patient-care/tobacco-control-and-prevention/)

Indiana Chapter for AAP: [inaap.org/cease-resourcesandmaterials](https://inaap.org/cease-resourcesandmaterials)

## Need Help Quitting?

If you use tobacco and also have a child who vapes, the best way to help support your child is to quit tobacco use yourself. There are many free resources available to help you start your quit journey whenever you are ready.



If you're ready to quit tobacco, Quit Now Indiana offers a variety of tools to be successful.

[1-800-Quit-Now](https://1-800-Quit-Now.com)  
[QuitNowIndiana.com](https://QuitNowIndiana.com)



If you are an adult looking for support to quit vaping or stop using any tobacco product, the free digital quit smoking platform, BecomeAnEX, offers comprehensive web and mobile tools.

[BecomeAnEx.org](https://BecomeAnEx.org)



Tobacco Free Campus Policy of the \_\_\_\_\_ School Corporation/ District

## 1. PURPOSE AND GOALS

INTENT. All students shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to avoid all commercial tobacco use, and school leaders shall actively discourage all use of commercial tobacco products by students, staff, vendors, and visitors. To achieve these ends, \_\_\_\_\_ school leaders shall prepare, adopt, and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent tobacco use that includes:

- establishment and strict enforcement of completely tobacco-free school environments at all times.
- prohibition of tobacco advertising.
- cooperation with community-wide efforts to prevent tobacco use; and
- strategies to involve family members in program development and implementation.
- appropriate cessation counseling services and/or referrals for students and staff to help them overcome tobacco addiction.

RATIONALE. Tobacco use is considered the chief preventable cause of premature disease and death in the United States. Schools have a responsibility to help prevent tobacco use for the sake of students' and staff members' health and the well-being of their families. Research conclusively proves that:

- regular use of tobacco is ultimately harmful to every user's health, directly causing cancer, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse pregnancy outcomes, and premature death.
- second-hand smoke is a threat to the personal health of everyone, especially persons with asthma and other respiratory problems.
- nicotine is a powerfully addictive substance.
- tobacco use most often begins during childhood or adolescence.
- the younger a person starts using tobacco, the more likely he or she will be a heavy user as an adult; and
- many young tobacco users will die an early, preventable death because of their decision to use tobacco.

Additional reasons why schools need to strongly discourage tobacco use include:

- In Indiana, the purchase and possession of tobacco products is illegal for persons under the age of 21.
- use of tobacco interferes with students' attendance and learning.
- smoking is a fire safety issue for schools.
- use of any tobacco products pose health issues and could lead to addiction; and
- use of spit tobacco is a potential sanitation issue.

**DEFINITION.** For the purposes of this policy "tobacco" is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product; spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, nicotine pouch and snuff, in any form; and all electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) such as e-cigarettes and vape and hookah pens.

## **2. TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENTS**

**TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED.** No student, staff member, vendor or visitor is permitted to smoke, vape, inhale, dip, or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours:

- in any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the \_\_\_\_\_ School corporation/district.
- on school grounds, athletic grounds, or parking lots; or
- at any school-sponsored event off campus.

In addition, "pass-outs" for adults during extra-curricular events are hereby eliminated as they only tend to encourage tobacco use on campus and continue to normalize commercial tobacco use.

Further, no student is permitted to possess any tobacco product. The provisions of existing policies that address the use and possession of drugs shall apply to all tobacco products.

**TOBACCO PROMOTION.** Tobacco promotional items, including clothing, bags, lighters, and other personal articles, are not permitted on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school-sponsored events. Tobacco advertising is prohibited in all school-sponsored publications and at all school-sponsored events.

**CLOSED CAMPUS.** No student may leave the school campus during breaks in the school day to use a tobacco product

**NOTICE.** The superintendent/principal/other shall notify students, families, education personnel, and school visitors of the tobacco-free policy in handbooks and newsletters, on posted notices or signs at every school entrance and other appropriate locations, and by other efficient means.

**ENFORCEMENT.** It is the responsibility of all students, employees, vendor, and visitors to enforce this policy through verbal admonition. Any tobacco product found in the possession of a student shall be confiscated by staff and discarded appropriately.



Any student in violation of this policy may be subject to the following measures:

The first violation will result in confiscation of tobacco products notification of parents and/or guardians, and at least one of the following:

- a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with designated staff (such as a guidance counselor, school nurse, counseling service, or resource officer) to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy.
  - b. Student participation in a tobacco education program, such as CATCH My Breath or Vaping Know the Truth.
2. Offer student information about available cessation programs and resources such as This is Quitting, LIVE Vape Free or 1-800-Quit-Now

The second violation shall result in confiscation of tobacco products, notification of parents and/or guardians, and offering the student information about available education programs such as CATCH My Breath or Vaping Know the Truth, as well as at least one of the following:

- a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with designated staff with parents and/or guardians to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy
- b. Student participation in a tobacco education program such as the American Lung Association's alternatives to suspension program INDEPTH

The third and any subsequent violation shall result in confiscation of tobacco products, notification of parents and/or guardians, offering student information about available cessation programs, such as This is Quitting, LIVE Vape Free or 1-800-Quit-Now and student participation in a tobacco education program such as CATCH My Breath or Vaping Know the Truth as well as at least one of the following:

- a. A student meeting and individual student assessment with designated staff and parents and/or guardians to discuss commercial tobacco use and school policy.
- b. Educational community service hours. This alternative can include activities related to the tobacco violation, such as cleaning up school grounds of litter or providing tobacco education to younger students.

Adopted and approved by the Board of the \_\_\_\_\_ School Corporation this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20XX. This policy is effective upon adoption.



## Enforcement Responsibility

Enforcement should be viewed as a shared responsibility of all staff, students and visitors. Enforcement should be clear and consistent—every violation, every time.

## Sample Consequences for Violations

### Students

- Students who violate the policy will be provided information on cessation.
- The tobacco products or other devices will be confiscated.
- Student violations may also result in: parent/guardian notification, substance abuse assessments, participation in tobacco education program, and/or community service.

### Staff

- Staff who violate this policy will be offered a referral to cessation services.
- Multiple violations are grounds for disciplinary action.

### Visitors

- Visitors who violate this policy will be asked to comply.
- Individuals who fail to comply upon request may be referred to the principal or other supervisory personnel and may be directed to leave school property and may forfeit any admission fee. Law enforcement may also be contacted.
- Repeated violations may result in the individual being prohibited from entering school property for a specified period.

## Responding to Common Questions about the Policy

<p>Why does the policy have to cover all school property, not just indoors?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowing tobacco or vape use on any school property reinforces and normalizes use of these products.</li> <li>• Secondhand smoke, even outdoors, can be dangerous for people (especially youth) with other health problems, such as asthma and allergies.</li> <li>• Many vape products are easy to conceal, so banning any use or possession of tobacco and vape products is necessary to discourage students from using them in places like buses, classrooms or bathrooms.</li> </ul>
<p>Why include staff and visitors, and not just students?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers, staff, and school visitors can be powerful role models for students. Seeing adults use tobacco and vape products can normalize use of these products for students.</li> <li>• Youth who don't see the use of tobacco and vape products in their everyday environments are less likely to think the behavior is normal and acceptable, and they are less likely to start using these products.</li> <li>• Secondhand smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals, with about 70 that are known to be harmful or cause cancer. There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure. The only way to fully protect youth from the dangers of secondhand smoke is through 100% smoke-free environments.</li> </ul>
<p>How are we going to get people to comply with this policy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication is key. Most people will comply with the policy if they know it exists (see pages 18-25 for communication strategies and resources).</li> <li>• Consistently enforce the policy. When enforcement is consistent, people are much more likely to comply (see page 21 for compliance and enforcement resources).</li> </ul>
<p>Why does it have to include visitors, contractors, and maintenance workers, and how can we get them to comply?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance staff members are an important part of the school staff. Their support of student health and respect for school policies is essential for tobacco-free and vape-free schools.</li> <li>• Allowing exceptions for service providers or visitors creates a mixed message.</li> <li>• Visitors, contractors, construction crews, and maintenance workers are not subject to certain school rules and exempt from others. Enforce school tobacco and vape policies just as you enforce all other policies, such as those prohibiting the use of alcohol and firearms.</li> </ul>
<p>Why athletic events?</p>	<p>Tobacco use has been historically promoted by the tobacco industry through sporting events such as baseball, rodeo, and football. Refraining from tobacco and e-cigarette use at school athletic events supports a healthy environment for everyone and helps de-normalize tobacco and e-cigarette use.</p>
<p>Why does the policy require schools to provide referrals to cessation resources?</p>	<p>Many cessation resources, or services that help people quit smoking, are available over the phone or online. Providing the websites and phone numbers to these resources is a simple way for schools to demonstrate their commitment to the health of all students, staff, and visitors.</p>
<p>Why does the policy include holistic enforcement options for student violations beyond suspension and expulsion?</p>	<p>Because using punitive measures like suspension and expulsion to penalize student violations of school tobacco policy is not reasonable, considering the targeted marketing, science of addiction, and long-term consequences associated with suspension.</p>
<p>Why does the policy prohibit electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes) regardless of what they contain?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-cigarette possession and use is against school policy, regardless of whether the liquid used in the device contains nicotine.</li> <li>• Many e-cigarette liquids contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to the use of other tobacco products among youth.</li> <li>• E-cigarette use models nicotine and tobacco use for youth, regardless of the liquid used.</li> <li>• Because many different liquids can be used in an e-cigarette, school staff cannot definitively determine whether an e-cigarette contains nicotine or other chemicals (such as liquid THC, a marijuana extract).</li> <li>• E-cigarette aerosol is not water vapor. In addition to nicotine, e-cigarette aerosol can contain heavy metals, ultrafine particulates that can be inhaled deep into the lungs, and toxins known to cause cancer.</li> </ul>

## What are Vape Detectors

A vape detector is a device that looks like a smoke detector. These devices are usually placed where vaping is not permitted. Vape detectors sound an alarm when chemicals are present in the air, such as the aerosol that is produced by vaping devices.

### Vape Detectors are NOT Recommended for Use in Schools

- There is no evidence that supports vape detectors will reduce or deter tobacco use.
- Vape detectors do not help with youth tobacco cessation.
- Vape detectors contribute to a negative school climate and add to punitive measures for addressing tobacco use.
- Root causes of tobacco use among youth are not being addressed with vape detectors.

There are many disadvantages and negative impacts of punitive measures, which are outlined on page 9 of this toolkit.

It is important to offer evidence-based prevention programs and cessation tools to all youth as an alternative to the use of vape detectors. Prevention and cessation resources are listed on pages 13-15 of this toolkit.

Source: UpRISE Youth Tobacco Control Movement & RMC Health

## Communicating Your Vape-Free School Policy

Many communities and schools have found that tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free policies are largely self-enforcing (meaning that people generally respect the rules, as long as they know about them).

Communicating that your school has a tobacco-free and vape-free policy is crucial to the policy's success. There are lots of ways for you to make sure that students, staff, parents and visitors know about your policy! However you choose to notify the people of the policy, make sure your message is clear, consistent, and positive.

### Communicating the policy to students:

- **In-school student announcements:** Involve student groups or clubs in developing and delivering announcements about the policy.
- **Student handbook:** Update the student handbook as soon as possible to reflect the full policy and its definitions, as well as the consequences for policy violations.  
Student pledges: Ask students participating in sports or academic groups and clubs to sign a pledge to be drug- and tobacco-free.

### Communicating the policy to staff:

- **Staff memo/email:** Inform school staff annually about the policy with an official memo or staff email.

### Communicating the policy to parents:

- **Parent letters:** Send a letter to all parents/ guardians notifying them of the policy, including background information on why the policy is necessary and an outline of consequences for policy violations
- **Communicating violations:** Have letters ready to notify parents of student policy violations

### Communicating the policy to visitors:

- **Signage:** Tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free signage should be posted at all entrances to school buildings, athletic facilities, grounds, and parking lots.
- **Event announcements:** Announce the policy at athletic and other school events, meetings, concerts, and plays. Include information about the policy in event bulletins and flyers.
- **Newspaper article/advertisement:** Work with your local newspaper to create a story or advertisement about the school's policy.
- **Official memo:** Inform vendors who provide deliveries or services on a regular basis of the policy with an official memo.



# Tobacco-Free and Vape-Free School Signage

## Example Signage

To Protect Everyone's Health

## This is a Tobacco-Free Campus

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Use of All Tobacco Products, Including E-Cigarettes, is Prohibited. Everywhere. Everyone. At All Times.

Want help quitting?  
**1-800-QUIT-NOW**  
[www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov)

[Download](#)

## WELCOME TO OUR TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL



School Policy prohibits the use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes: Everywhere, By Everyone, At ALL Times. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

[Download](#)



# Sample Event Announcements

School events, such as sporting events, concerts and theater performances, are an important place to remind visitors of your tobacco-free and vape-free school policy.

The following are a few options for announcements to be used at school sporting events; they can also be easily adapted for use at concerts, theater performances, and other school events.

**15 Seconds:** For the safety of our students, [school] is proud to have a 100 percent tobacco-free and vape-free school policy. At this time, we would like to remind our home fans and visitors that the use of tobacco products or electronic cigarettes during tonight's sporting event is strictly prohibited. We appreciate your support and would like to thank you for keeping our school and stadium tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free. Enjoy the game!

**15 Seconds:** In Indiana, an estimated 3,100 kids under age 18 will become new daily smokers each year. That is one reason why [school] has a 100 percent tobacco-free and vape-free school policy. Tobacco and e-cigarette use of any kind is strictly prohibited on all school property, including in and around the stadium and parking lots. Thank you for your support and for helping us keep our students tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free!

**15 Seconds:** Nearly ninety percent of adult smokers started smoking before they turned 18 years old. Refraining from tobacco and e-cigarette use at school athletic events supports a healthy environment for everyone. This is one reason why [school] is 100 percent tobacco-free and vape-free. Thank you for your support, and enjoy the game!

**15 Seconds:** We would like to remind our visitors and fans that tobacco and e-cigarette use of any kind during tonight's game is prohibited. This means no tobacco or e-cigarette use anytime, by anyone, anywhere on campus—including stadiums and parking lots. We appreciate your support and thank you for keeping our school and stadium tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free!

**30 Seconds:** We would like to remind our visitors and fans that use of tobacco and e-cigarettes of any kind during tonight's game is prohibited. Secondhand smoke, even outdoors, can be dangerous for people (especially kids) with other health problems such as asthma and allergies. E-cigarette aerosol is not just water vapor. In addition to nicotine, e-cigarette aerosol can contain heavy metals and other chemicals and toxins known to cause cancer. This is one reason why [school] is 100 percent tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy the game!

# Sample Staff Memo

Dear Staff,

To ensure our school maintains a positive, healthy learning environment, [school] has approved a tobacco-free and vape-free school policy that prohibits all tobacco and e-cigarette use by students, staff, and visitors at all times, including school events after regular school hours and at off-site school activities. This policy also prohibits students, staff, and visitors from bringing tobacco and e-cigarette products to school. A copy of the policy is attached.

We have put this policy in place for three main reasons:

- **Help Students Be Tobacco-Free and Vape-Free:** Youth spend a great deal of their time at school and school events. Keeping tobacco and e-cigarettes out of the school environment means students don't see their friends or adults using tobacco and e-cigarettes, which helps make tobacco and e-cigarette use less socially acceptable.
- **Provide A Healthy and Positive Environment:** Secondhand smoke can make nonsmokers sick or worsen breathing problems like asthma.
- **Prevent A New Nicotine-Addicted Generation:** National statistics show that youth are using e-cigarettes now more than ever before. We have a responsibility to educate our students about the dangers of nicotine addiction and help them to live tobacco-free and nicotine-free lives.

As staff, it is critical you are aware of and in compliance with our tobacco-free and vape-free school policy. All of our policies must be enforced in order to be effective. It is also important we recognize our position as role models for our youth. All school personnel are required to enforce and comply with our tobacco-free and vape-free school policy.

Here at [school], staff should refer students who are found violating the policy to [customize this information for your school]. Ignoring violations or only warning students compromises the effectiveness of our policy. It is our job to work together to provide a positive and healthy learning environment for our youth and fellow staff. As a tobacco-free and vape-free school, we are paving the way for a lifetime of healthy decision-making in our students.

There are many helpful resources for youth or adults in our community who use tobacco or e-cigarettes and want to quit. Teens can visit [LiveVapeFree.com](http://LiveVapeFree.com) for free resources when they're ready to quit vaping. Hoosiers 13 and over can text READY to 34191 for free services to help quit tobacco use. Free texting services are also available through EX Program (text EXPROGRAM to 88709).

We appreciate your help in supporting this policy. If you have questions or comments about the policy, please feel free to contact [Point of Contact].

# Sample Parent Letter

Dear Parents,

On [date], [school] approved a comprehensive tobacco-free and vape-free school policy. This policy prohibits all tobacco and e-cigarette use by everyone (students, staff, parents and visitors), everywhere on campus, at all times, including school events after regular school hours. This policy also prohibits the use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes during off-site school-sponsored events. A copy of the policy is attached.

We have put this policy in place for three main reasons:

- **Help Students Be Tobacco-Free and Vape-Free:** Youth spend a great deal of their time at school and school events. Keeping tobacco and e-cigarettes out of the school environment means students don't see their friends or adults using tobacco and e-cigarettes, which helps make tobacco and e-cigarette use less socially acceptable.
- **Provide A Healthy and Positive Environment:** Secondhand smoke can make nonsmokers sick or worsen breathing problems like asthma.
- **Prevent A New Nicotine-Addicted Generation:** National statistics show that youth are using e-cigarettes now more than ever before. We have a responsibility to educate our students about the dangers of nicotine addiction and help them to live tobacco-free and nicotine-free lives.

Tobacco-free and vape-free schools provide positive role modeling for students. Schools are a place where children develop lifelong behaviors, and we are committed to ensuring smoking, chewing tobacco, and/or using e-cigarettes are not among those behaviors.

We have installed signs about the policy throughout the school campus. We will also make regular announcements at school events to remind students and visitors that tobacco and e-cigarette use is not allowed at these events or on school property.

There are many helpful resources for youth or adults in our community who use tobacco and want to quit. Hoosiers 13 and over can text READY to 34191 for free services to help quit tobacco use.

We appreciate your help in supporting this policy. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact [Point of Contact].



## Behind the Haze

Behind the Haze delivers compelling and evidence-based health education targeted at youth between the ages of 13-21. Behind the Haze does not use ambiguous scare tactics. Instead it delivers targeted facts that show the knowledge, attitude, and beliefs associated with teenage vaping, with the goal of curbing vape use long-term.

[behindthehaze.com](http://behindthehaze.com)



## Don't Puff This Stuff

The Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Indiana Department of Health have partnered to combat the vaping epidemic among teens, called "Don't Puff This Stuff." The education campaign includes posters for schools to display on campus, a robust social media program, a "Don't Puff This Stuff" website, and radio and television commercials that are aired on IHSAA broadcast properties.

[DontPuffThisStuff.com](http://DontPuffThisStuff.com)



## The Real Cost

"The Real Cost" is hosted by FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. "The Real Cost" campaigns educate at-risk teens on the harmful effects of e-cigarette use and cigarette smoking. The target audience is youth 12-17 years old.

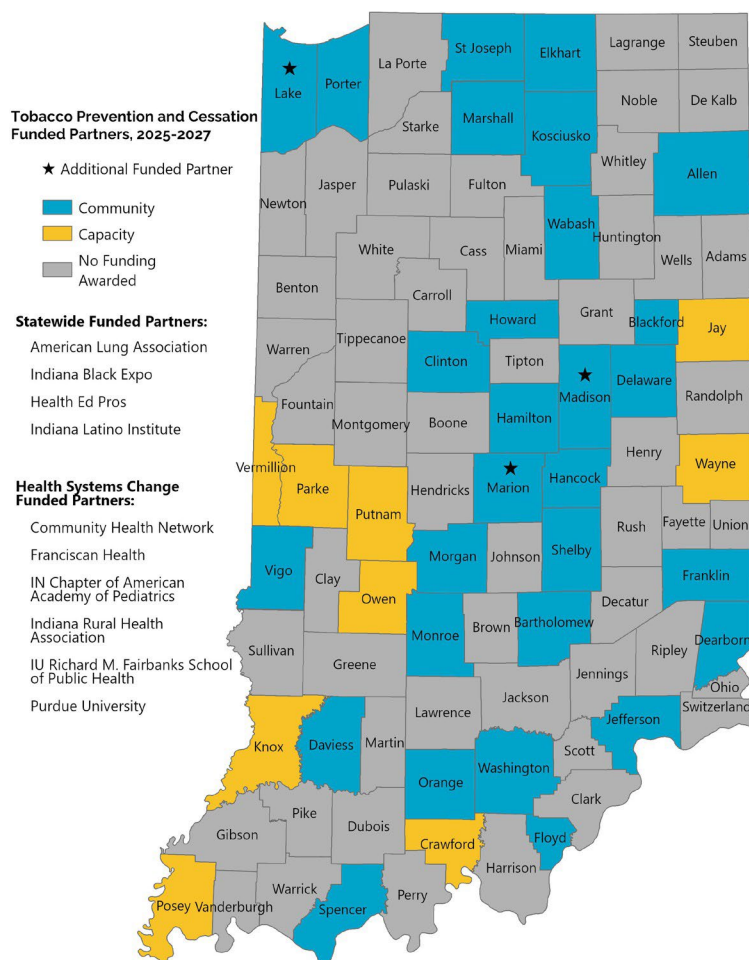
[theRealCost.betobaccofree.hhs.gov](http://theRealCost.betobaccofree.hhs.gov)

## Community Partnerships

For 2025-2027, the Indiana Department of Health’s Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commission (TPC) funded community coalitions in 38 counties. Their work in the local communities is key to the success of the statewide program. TPC supports the local community programs by providing training, technical assistance, and resources.

To raise awareness of the impact of tobacco use at the local level, communities must maintain coalition efforts through the priority area of maintaining a state and local infrastructure. These activities include training adult and youth coalition and community members; developing relationships with key stakeholders and decision makers; and building diverse coalitions in their community.

[Full list](#) of local tobacco control partners in Indiana.





Indiana's youth engagement model, Voice, seeks to engage, educate, and empower youth to celebrate a tobacco-free lifestyle. Voice is actively building a network of youth leaders to assist with the design and implementation of initiatives that will educate the community and empower their peers to overcome tobacco.

[VoicesIndiana.org](http://VoicesIndiana.org)



## Counties with a VOICE Program

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation  
Funded Partners with Optional  
Indicators, 2025-2027

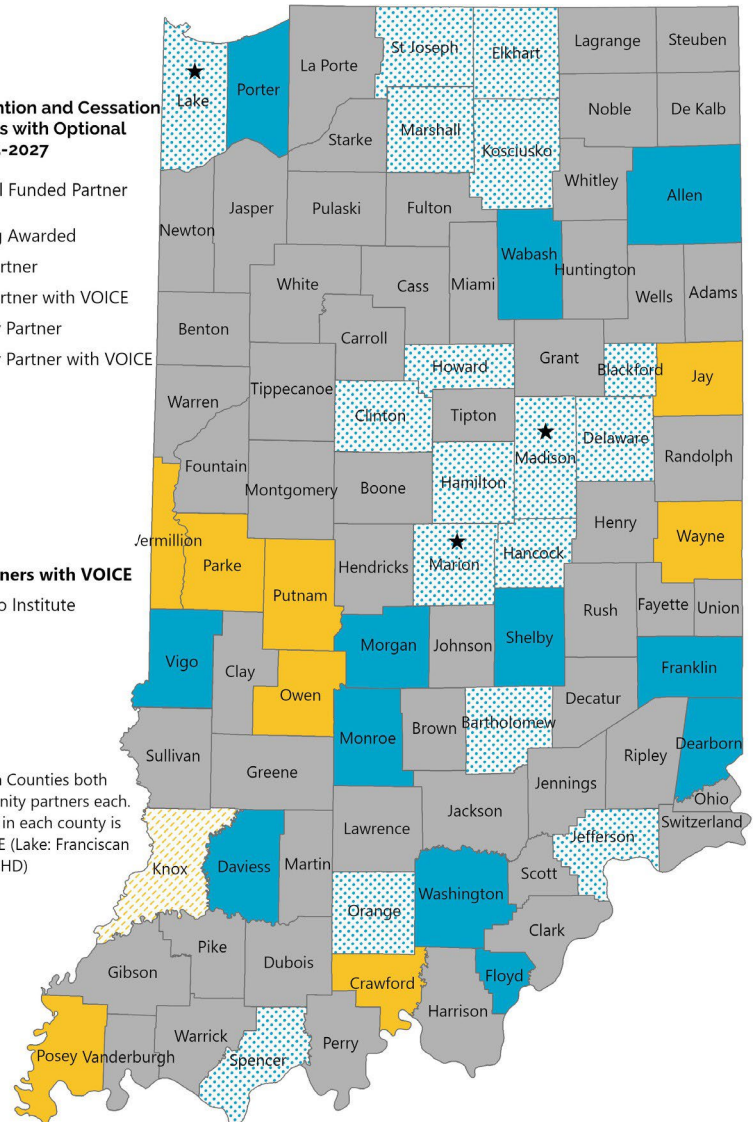
★ Additional Funded Partner

- No Funding Awarded
- Capacity Partner
- Capacity Partner with VOICE
- Community Partner
- Community Partner with VOICE

Statewide Partners with VOICE

Indiana Latino Institute

\*Lake and Marion Counties both have two community partners each. Only one partner in each county is working on VOICE (Lake: Franciscan and Marion: MCPHD)



Truth Initiative® is America's largest nonprofit public health organization committed to making tobacco use a thing of the past. It conducts groundbreaking research and policy studies, offers an award-winning truth® campaign, and promotes community activism and engagement, and innovation to end tobacco use.

[TruthInitiative.org](http://TruthInitiative.org)

## References and Resources

**Indiana Youth Tobacco Survey:** <https://www.in.gov/health/tpc/files/Highlights-from-the-2024-IYTS.pdf>

**Public Health Law Center:** <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/Addressing-Student-Commercial-Tobacco-Use-in-Schools-Alternative-Measures-2019.pdf>

**Public Health Law Center - JUUL Settlement Funds Guidance:** <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/commentary/230727/7/27/23-how-spend-juul-settlement-funds-champion-our-children-target-commercial>

**FDA Center for Tobacco Products:** <https://digitalmedia.hhs.gov/tobacco/hosted/Vaping-ECigarettes-Youth-Toolkit.pdf>

**2016 U.S. Surgeon General's Report:** [e-cigarettes.SurgeonGeneral.gov](https://www.e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov)

**American Academy of Pediatrics:** [aap.org/cessation](https://www.aap.org/cessation)

**Live Vape Free (Adults):** [rallyhealth.com/live-vape-free](https://www.rallyhealth.com/live-vape-free)

**EX Program:** [EXProgram.com](https://www.EXProgram.com)

**Quit Now Indiana:** [QuitNowIndiana.com/Teens](https://www.QuitNowIndiana.com/Teens)

**Smoke-Free Teen:** [teen.smokefree.gov](https://www.teen.smokefree.gov)

**BecomeAnEx (Parents):** [BecomeAnEx.org](https://www.BecomeAnEx.org)

**Behind the Haze:** [BehindTheHaze.com](https://www.BehindTheHaze.com)

**Don't Puff This Stuff:** [DontPuffThisStuff.com](https://www.DontPuffThisStuff.com)

**The Real Cost:** [theRealCost.BeTobaccoFree.hhs.gov](https://www.theRealCost.BeTobaccoFree.hhs.gov)

**VOICE Indiana:** [VoiceIndiana.org](https://www.VoiceIndiana.org)

**Truth Initiative:** [TruthInitiative.org](https://www.TruthInitiative.org)

**Tobacco Prevention and Cessation:** [in.gov/health/tpc](https://www.in.gov/health/tpc)

For additional information about  
Vape-Free Indiana: [in.gov/vapefreeindiana](https://www.in.gov/vapefreeindiana)



**Tobacco Prevention  
and Cessation**

