



Southern Berkshire Regional School District
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Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you of an increasingly difficult issue we are dealing with in our community and to invite you to a family information session we are hosting to address it. The issue is the growing popularity and use of E-cigarette products in and outside of school. Our presentation is about the current statistics, the associated health risks, the best prevention methods, and the ways we can work together to combat it.

EVENT: E-Cigarette and Vaping Family Information Session (with Q&A) hosted by SBRSD: Presentation by Joyce Brewer from Berkshire AHEC Inc and Michael Monti of the Brien Center

WHEN: Tuesday November 13th 6pm - 7pm

WHERE: Mount Everett Library, 491 Berkshire School Road

WHO: All Faculty and Parents of SBRSD (Children in 6th grade and above are able to attend with a parent/guardian: Childcare will be provided for younger kids)

In addition, we will be hosting several smaller student workshops (5th - 12th grade) during school after the presentation, and wanted to equip parents with the most current information in order to support healthy habits and conversations at home. To be clear, this issue does not affect many of our elementary families, but I did not want to risk excluding anyone who might benefit from this information, or who would like support around having these conversations.

The point of the presentation is to raise awareness about the use of E-cigarettes and other vaping instruments, and provide time for Q&A with experts in the field. Although the majority of the documented instances have occurred with older students, use has reached a level where I feel it would be remiss not to include the entire community. Many of our kids have older siblings, and or friends, who have been exposed to these products. Although there are legal restrictions and consequences with purchasing and/or use, we want to emphasize that this meeting is more focused on potential health risks. Therefore, we have enlisted the help of two tobacco and substance abuse experts to provide the most current information and to answer your questions.

Finally, I have included the following links as resources. The first is a parent tip sheet on talking to teens about E-Cigarettes and the second is a message from the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General about the most frequently asked questions and answers from their report on E-Cigarettes. Thanks for your support in partnering with us on this important issue.

1. [Parent Tip Sheet](#)
2. [Surgeon General's FAQ](#)

Sincerely,

Charles Miller