

Russell County Board of Education



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our top priority in Russell County Schools is the safety and well-being of our students. Russell County Schools, like many other school districts across Kentucky and our nation, have seen a spike in incidents involving student vaping. You have seen or read some of the horrific stories of students in many schools across our nation having fentanyl-laced vape pens, marijuana electric dab pens, etc. We want to be proactive in our actions and are going to impose stiffer discipline measures for students in possession of or using tobacco products (including vaping products).

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, the Russell County Board of Education adopted a change to the *2021-2022 Code of Acceptable Behavior & Attendance Policy*. This document can always be found on our district website at www.russellcountyschools.com – click on “Quick Links” and then “for Parents/Guardians” and then choose “Code of Conduct 2021-22”. The approved changes to the *2021-2022 Code of Acceptable Behavior & Attendance Policy* provide greater flexibility for our school principals to utilize out of school suspensions for the use/possession of tobacco products. With this change, school administration will begin imposing the following consequences for tobacco use/possession violations beginning Monday, April 11: 1st offense: Three (3) day suspension and completion of required educational material*. 2nd offense: Four (4) day suspension. 3rd offense: Five (5) day suspension from school. Additional infractions will result in more aggressive disciplinary actions up to and including alternative school placement. Additionally, when students are suspended from school, they are also prohibited from school grounds and participation in any school sponsored events including extra-curricular activities and athletic events/activities.

****Students are expected to submit the educational material, completed, when they return to school. If the material is not complete, students will go to in-school suspension to complete it.***

The Lake Cumberland District Health Department has several educational resources about vaping available at <https://www.lcdhd.org/vaping>. I encourage you to review this information and have an ongoing discussion with your child(ren) and if your child has a nicotine addiction, please reach out to his/her physician for assistance.

On behalf of your child(ren) thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Ford
Superintendent
Russell County Schools

Shanna Tarter
Principal
Russell County High School

Wayne Ackerman
Principal
Russell County Middle School