



Matthew D. Thompson, Ed.D., Superintendent
Sharon Smith-Breiner, Chairperson
Daniel Freeman, Ed.D., Vice Chairperson

Our mission is to provide a safe and accepting environment and ensure a student-centered, equitable education with high expectations for ALL students.

Alice Anderson, Board Member
Carmela Fletcher-Green, Board Member
Bill R. Morgan, Board Member

August 22, 2023

An open letter to businesses selling vape/vaping products:

This is an open letter from the Montgomery County Schools Board of Education and administration. We are issuing an urgent plea that you move vaping products behind the counter of your businesses and monitor closely the selling of these products to minors.

We are aware that vaping is a growing problem among youth in our community. As a school system, our teachers, staff, and administrators at all levels (high school, middle school, and even elementary school) deal with issues of youth vaping daily. The number of students vaping is increasing and it is clear that we need to take action and put preventative strategies in place. When speaking to students anonymously, many tell us that use is rampant and they all know friends who are addicted to this practice. The number of young people using vape devices to consume illegal substances such as THC is increasing as well.

While a person over the age of 21 has the legal right to do as they please within the law, underage students are now making these decisions for themselves. We realize most businesses selling these products follow the law, however, we have an alarming number of underage students tell us they have purchased these products locally. As a result we are asking for your help!

We urge you to do your part to help protect our youth from the dangers of vaping. We respectfully request that you:

- Move all vaping products behind the counter and out of sight of minors.
- Train your employees on the laws surrounding the sale of vape products to minors.
- Refuse to sell vape products to any minor.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. We believe that by working together, we can help keep our youth safe from the dangers of vaping. Thank you.

Respectfully,

The Montgomery County Schools Board of Education, and,

Matthew D. Thompson, EdD, Superintendent