

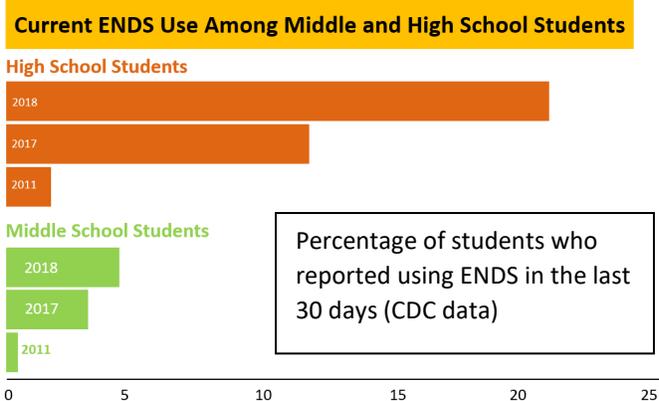
2019 Legislative Priority

Raise the Age of Tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems to 21

WSPTA believes that use of tobacco products is a public health concern and supports taking action to raise the age of access to 21 for all tobacco products and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes and other vaping and Juul devices, and ending the marketing of these products to youth.

Background

- While smoking cigarettes has declined, use of ENDS has increased dramatically since 2011,^{1,2} with 3.6 million middle and high school students nationwide report having used ENDS in the past 30 days.³
- The use of products containing nicotine in any form, including in ENDS, is unsafe and addictive, particularly for youth:
 - Brain development continues until the early to mid-20s. Nicotine exposure during periods of significant brain development can disrupt the growth of brain circuits that control attention, learning, impulse control and mood disorders.⁴
 - The nicotine can prime young brains for addiction to other drugs, such as cocaine and methamphetamine.⁴
 - The constituents in ENDS liquids can include solvents, flavorings, and toxicants.⁴
- Youth report easy access to tobacco and ENDS, including e-cigarettes, and other vaping and Juul devices.
 - Manufacturers use candy flavorings and fun images and advertisements to target youth, using approaches and themes similar to those that were used to promote conventional tobacco products.⁴
 - Current device designs make it easy for youth to conceal their possession and use.²
 - When asked what is “in the mist you inhaled,” 66.0% of youth say just flavoring and 13.7% don’t know. Manufacturers don’t have to report ingredients, so users don’t know what’s actually in them.⁵
 - Other drugs, including marijuana, can be easily substituted or added to ENDS devices.⁴
- The Surgeon General of the United States has declared ENDS use in youth as a national epidemic and declared “We must take aggressive steps to protect our children from these highly potent products that risk exposing a new generation of young people to nicotine.”⁶



Proposed Solutions

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:

- Limit access, sale, and distribution of all tobacco products and electronic nicotine delivery systems, including but not limited to, e-cigarettes, vaping and Juul devices, to age of 21 and up;
- Prohibit packaging and marketing targeted at youth.

For More Information

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For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our website (www.wastatepta.org)

Citations

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<https://www.askhys.net/FactSheets>
2. Centers for Disease Control Youth and Tobacco Use Factsheet [updated December 4 2018]
https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/index.htm
3. Centers for Disease Control (2018). Electronic Cigarettes – What’s the Bottom Line?
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4. A Report of the Surgeon General (2016). E-cigarettes Among Youth and Young Adults Fact Sheet
https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Fact_Sheet_508.pdf
5. Johnston, L. D., O’Malley, P. M., Miech, R. A., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2016). Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-2015: Overview -Key Findings on Adolescent Drug Use. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.
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6. Surgeon General’s Advisory on E-cigarette Use Among Youth (December 2018).
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