

June 27, 2019

The Honorable Judge Paul Haakenson
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Pat Randolph, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Haakenson and Foreperson Randolph:

The San Rafael City Schools (SRCS) Board of Education, together with Dr. Michael Watenpaugh, Superintendent, acknowledge the efforts of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury for highlighting challenges with youth vaping in the greater Marin community, outlined in its report dated May 9, 2019, titled "Vaping: An Under-the-Radar Epidemic." Attached please find the requested response to the recommendations (R1, R4) from the San Rafael City Schools Board.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our public schools and the health and wellness of Marin county's youth.

Sincerely,

Greg Knell
Board of Education President

Michael Watenpaugh, Ed.D.
Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION

R1: The County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services, the Marin County Office of Education, and all school districts should increase initiatives to provide students, parents, and the community with more information and support on vaping prevention and cessation. Initiatives should include digital and social media content, including materials for middle and high schools.

Response

The recommendation has not yet been fully implemented.

We fully agree with the Grand Jury recommendation that school districts and community partners need to increase education and outreach regarding vaping. While SRCS has done work in this area, the seriousness of the situation requires us to expand our efforts. In conjunction with the Marin County Office of Education and the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, SRCS has developed a comprehensive response to the issue, on which to build, that includes the following. Many of these activities are due in part to the Marin Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Consortium, which SRCS is proud to participate in.

- Youth prevention activities
 - Delivery of research-validated prevention curriculum
 - Peer-to-Peer vaping prevention presentations (Davidson Middle School, May 2019; Madrone High School, May 2019; San Rafael High School, Fall / Spring 2019)
 - TUPE Peer Educators
 - There are 18 Davidson Middle School, 20 San Rafael High School and six Terra Linda High School Peer Educators that have received training on being tobacco-free advocates. They have led classroom trainings in their school. Specifically, at San Rafael High School, during the second week of November and third week of May, students have presented sessions titled, "Tobacco and Vaping 101."
 - School wide prevention events and activities.
 - At Davidson Middle School, examples of drug prevention programs, peer support/mentoring, include:
 - Being Adept: Comprehensive drug education and refusal tactics, 7th grade science team
 - Peer Court: Diversion of suspension program - mild to moderate infractions. Peer Court suggests brief intervention for every tobacco or marijuana related offense
 - Marin Youth Court: Diversion of suspension program - moderate to serious infractions
 - DMS Counseling: Wellness checks, restorative dialogues, individual student planning; individual and group counseling, coordination of services and consultations
 - Covitality: A mental health screening tool for all 7th grade students

- WEB Leaders: 7th and 8th grade students that are trained to provide guidance and support to 6th grade students
- Restorative Club: In progress, trained students that can provide peer to peer counseling and help develop anti-bullying initiatives through training sponsored by the Anti-defamation League, TUPE and Marin Youth Court
- At San Rafael High School, examples of drug prevention programs, peer support/mentoring, include:
 - Red Ribbon Week: Dispersed information about vaping dangers in the quad at lunch. Posted posters all over school same theme.
 - Great American Smoke Out: Dispersed information about smoking dangers in the quad at brunch. Posted posters all over same theme.
- At both Davidson Middle School and Terra Linda High School, students produced information TUPE videos. Students promoted the videos throughout the school year and distributed them widely.
 - TLHS Student Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThuJvxlYQA&feature=youtu.be>
 - DMS Student Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ws2-kZVH50o>
- Parent/community education
 - Vaping Epidemic Parent Workshops (Davidson Middle School, February 2019 and March 2019)
 - Natural Highs: Supporting Teens in Making Healthy Choices – at Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) (April 2018)
 - Vaping Epidemic Parent Workshop – at MCOE and recording posted to MCOE website (October 2018)
 - Brief Intervention for Substance Using Adolescents – at Tamalpais Union High School District Office (December 2018)
 - Marin Voice: An All-out Campaign is Needed Against Vaping (printed in Marin Independent Journal on April 20, 2019)
 - A Parent's Guide for the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Use with vaping insert (mailed to all parents of incoming freshman in August 2018)
- School Staff/Administration Presentations
 - Marin Community United – Vaping and Our Children a Call to Action for Schools, Local Government and Community Partners (April 2019)
- Digital content
 - Youth-created public service announcements
 - Peer produced videos
 - Student inspired graphic designs and poster
- Community Partnerships

- Huckleberry Youth Services: We refer to Huckleberry counseling when we have a student with substance abuse issues.
- Community Institute for Psychotherapy: Provides clinical services on site for referred students
- Bay Area Community Resources: Provides clinical services on site for referred students
- Youth and Family Services: Provides clinical services on site for referred students
- LEAP: Provides a safe after school learning environment

In partnership with the Marin County Office of Education, Marin Health and Human Services and the Marin Prevention Network, SRCS will participate in the development of a more comprehensive response to the issue of youth vaping that will include expansion of the above strategies and the further development of cessation materials as they are made available by healthcare partners.

An update on programs will be provided by November 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

R4: Each school district should install vaping detectors in school bathrooms and other areas where vaping frequently occurs.

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis.

The use of vaping detectors in school bathrooms will require reviewing costs, school program considerations, and, an analysis of the effectiveness and best practices related to the use of vaping detectors. The analysis will be undertaken in conjunction with the Marin County Office of Education, Marin County Health and Human Services and other school districts. As school districts pilot programs, information related to success and deterrent factors will be assessed.

An update on the analysis will be provided by November 2019.