



**DOVER HIGH SCHOOL
AND
REGIONAL CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER**



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Letter of Support from Dean of Students, Kimberly Stephens

The Dover School District recognizes that the schools, as well as families and the community at large, have a responsibility to address the increase in e-cigarette use amongst adolescents as well as the use of the traditional use of tobacco products. Each school campus is designated a drug-free zone specific to tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vape pens with signage and handbooks available online for all families. Students surveyed in 2017 with the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS) report a 30-day drop to a record low 6.5% use of tobacco cigarettes, but 33.7% of students report using e-cigarettes in their lifetime. School data supports a rise in student use of vape pens and e-cigarettes. School violations in these two areas are six times higher than in previous years.

The school promotes a climate in which students can seek help if they are in distress from their own or a peer's use. All student reports are taken seriously often resulting in interviews and when warranted, a school-sanctioned search and consequence. The school informs parents of interventions including partnering with the school social worker and/or Drug and Alcohol Counselor. Suspended students also receive support from their counselor with a meeting to discuss consequences, long-term interventions, and academic plans.

The high school consistently educates students about the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and other impairing substances to help students achieve a standard of personal responsibility and respect for themselves and the school. Each student takes Health as a New Hampshire state graduation requirement and the curriculum includes a dedicated tobacco unit. The Athletic Leadership council attends the Annual Life of an Athlete featuring workshops on the impact of using e-cigarettes. The Student Council also receives YRBS data to discuss possible campaigns. The community engagement group is partnering with Youth-2-Youth to develop a campaign in 2018-19 to reach the community. The students of the Dover School community are using their voice to educate, work cooperatively, and advocate for city leadership support to help share the social and civic responsibility to improve school culture and climate.

Commendation:

- Students and groups working independently and cooperatively to campaign against tobacco

Recommendation:

- Partner with the city and the greater community to involve and engage all stakeholders in meaningful ways

Evidence:

Dover High School handbook
MMS tobacco violations
YRBS data 2017
Student reports
Policy JICH Student Substance Use Policy

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