Restrict Youth Access to E-Cigarettes

Superintendents have been leaders in ringing the alarm bells about the increased use of e-cigarettes among pre-teens and teenagers in their middle schools and high schools. They witnessed the rapid growth of tobacco consumption and other inhalants amount their student population and have attempted to curb such abuse at every turn.

In order to help school leaders be successful in this mission, the state has an important role to play by enacting commonsense laws that limit access to certain products.

For the second consecutive year, the Executive Budget includes a proposal that would prohibit the sale of all flavored vaping products. These flavored products are clearly designed to attract young people and create a new generation of smokers that deal with this lifetime affliction.

The Executive also proposes restricting vaping advertisements targeted towards young people, limited online sale of e-liquids and e-cigarettes, and other restrictions relating to these products.

The entire package of proposals should be accepted by the legislature. Couple with the law enacted last year prohibiting tobacco sales to individuals under 21 statewide, these commonsense changes will help school leaders protect the health and well-being of young and impressionable students.

At this point, the Council of School Superintendents takes no position regarding legalization of marijuana. That said, there are a number of regional superintendent groups that are strongly opposed to legalization and are perplexed at how the state can recognize the dangers of vaping yet at the same time support expanded marijuana use.

From a statewide perspective, we urge guardrails accompany any legalization law that protects youth from abusing marijuana as it inevitably becomes easier to access and contains sufficient protections to avoid an increase in incidents of driving while intoxicated. Students are never in more danger during the day than while traveling on our roads, and no state revenue benefit is worth increasing these dangers.

The Council Supports Restricting Youth Access to Vaping Products