



# RUNGE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Yellowjacket Nation,

Runge ISD, like many other schools, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving student vaping. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the repercussions if your child engages in vaping or being in possession of an electronic cigarette while on school property.

Students caught in possession will receive a 45-day DAEP placement at the Nixon-Smilely CISD Alternative School. It is illegal in Texas for a person younger than 21 to possess, buy, consume or accept cigarettes, electronic cigarettes or other tobacco products. A referral to the Karnes County Sheriff's Department will be made. Texas Penal Code Title 10 Sec. 48.01 (a-1) states that a person commits an offense if the person is in possession of or operates an electronic cigarette in a facility of a public primary or secondary school. An offense under this section is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor.

Electronic cigarettes are prohibited by the Runge ISD Student Handbook, which all students and parents/guardians sign off on to acknowledge their understanding of the expectations in our District.

We thank you for being a partner with us in your child's education. We need to work together as new trends emerge that risk the health and safety of our children.

Educationally Yours,

Hector O. Dominguez, Jr.  
Superintendent

PENAL CODE

TITLE 10. OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND MORALS

CHAPTER 48. CONDUCT AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Sec. 48.01. SMOKING TOBACCO. (a) In this section, "e-cigarette" has the meaning assigned by Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code.

(a-1) A person commits an offense if the person is in possession of a burning tobacco product, smokes tobacco, or operates an e-cigarette in a facility of a public primary or secondary school or an elevator, enclosed theater or movie house, library, museum, hospital, transit system bus, intrastate bus, plane, or train which is a public place.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the conveyance or public place in which the offense takes place does not have prominently displayed a reasonably sized notice that smoking is prohibited by state law in such conveyance or public place and that an offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

(c) All conveyances and public places set out in Subsection (a-1) shall be equipped with facilities for extinguishment of smoking materials and it shall be a defense to prosecution under this section if the conveyance or public place within which the offense takes place is not so equipped.

(d) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (a-1) if the person is in possession of the burning tobacco product, smokes tobacco, or operates the e-cigarette exclusively within an area designated for smoking tobacco or operating an e-cigarette or as a participant in an authorized theatrical performance.

(e) An area designated for smoking tobacco or operating an e-cigarette on a transit system bus or intrastate plane or train must also include the area occupied by the operator of the transit system bus, plane, or train.

(f) An offense under this section is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1975, 64th Leg., p. 744, ch. 290, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1975.  
Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 108, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 30.242, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by: