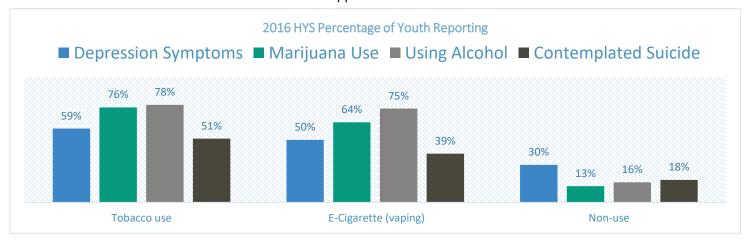
Red Flag for Supports:

Students Who Smoke or Vape



The 2016 Healthy Youth Survey shows that students who reported **vaping**, **smoking**, and using **tobacco** may be at increased risk for using other substances and experiencing depressive symptoms and thoughts of suicide. Smoking and vaping are observable but co-occurring mental health and substance use issues may not be. Smoking and vaping can indicate a need for social-emotional care and health supports.



Recommendations for Schools

Focus on Prevention



Universal prevention serves all students. It is data-informed and connects to school culture. School substance-use prevention policy efforts include:

- Strengthening positive school climate and culture
- Teaching, modeling, and reinforcing expectations
- Meaningful relationships with students and families
- Collaborating with community organizations

Moving from reactive to proactive requires systems change and a comprehensive approach. School policies on smoking and vaping have often involved punitive discipline approaches. Substance violations typically lead to suspensions, increasing student absenteeism without addressing root causes. For students who smoke or use vape devices, staying connected to school and accessing support services is vital for long-term well-being.

Reframe



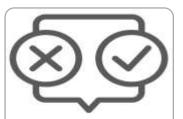
Shift student smoking and vaping from a discipline issue to an opportunity to identify and provide support

Revise Policy



Combine tobacco, alcohol and other drug policies, and add vape devices. Minimize use of out-of-school disciplinary actions

Screen



Screen students caught using tobacco or vape devices for substance use & mental health. Refer to services as needed

Support



Support participation in intervention groups, treatment services, and student assistance programs