

## Key Talking Points About Vape Detectors & Why They Are Not Recommended For School Tobacco Control

### Vape detectors:

- Are small devices often installed in places where vaping is prohibited to detect chemical changes in the air.
- Cost \$300-\$1000 per unit.
- Require monitoring and maintenance
- Can be set off by other chemicals in the air, such as perfumes or hairspray

### Vape detectors are not recommended because they:

- Are not supported by evidence or research to prevent or reduce youth/student nicotine/tobacco use
- Do not help young people quit tobacco/nicotine.
- Can impede positive school climate efforts and lead to or contribute to a culture of [punitive discipline](#) around tobacco and nicotine use. Installing detectors shifts the focus to punishing students, rather than identifying the appropriate support and resources they might need for their health and wellbeing.
  - Punitive approaches to substance use can make students feel disconnected from school and impact their trust in the adults in their school.
- Do not address the root causes of vaping:
  - In fact, current data in Colorado suggests that youth who feel unsafe at school or who do not have an adult they can talk to are more likely to use tobacco/nicotine products.

### Instead of vape detectors, consider these sustainable evidence and research-informed support systems for youth struggling with tobacco/nicotine use:

<p><b>Prevention Programs:</b> Instead of spending time attempting to identify students who are vaping at school, try a program that helps stop the problem before it starts. The evidence-based tobacco prevention curriculum, <a href="#">Catch My Breath</a>, is free and can be implemented in classrooms without significant teacher training.</p>	<p><b>Screen and Treat:</b> Develop a process to screen students for tobacco or nicotine dependence using Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). Instead of trying to “catch students in the act” with vape detectors, implement universal screening systems to analyze a student’s relationship with nicotine and/or tobacco and determine a treatment plan. (<a href="#">Resource 1</a>, <a href="#">Resource 2</a>)</p>
<p><b>Educate and Offer Support:</b> Adopt programs to support student learning and intervention approaches that are focused on education and quit support, such as Second Chance (also free) and signing students up for My Life, My Quit (free again!), if a student expresses being ready to quit.</p>	<p><b>Parent/Family Resources:</b> The <a href="#">FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products (CTP)</a> has developed materials not just for teens and educators, but also for parents and caregivers. Sharing this resource with families in your community is a great first step to supporting conversations about tobacco and nicotine at home.</p>