



May 2, 2024

VIA EMAIL

TO: Governor Gretchen Whitmer; Mayor Mike Duggan; Mary Sheffield; President, Detroit City Council; James Tate, Pro Tem, City Council President; Angela Whitfield-Calloway, City Council; Scott Benson, City Council; Latisha Johnson, City Council; Gabriela Santiago-Romero, City Council; Fred Durhal III, City Council; Mary Waters, City Council, At-Large; Coleman A. Young II, City Council, At-Large; Chief James White; Senator Erika Geiss; Rep. Amos O'Neal; Senator Sarah Anthony; Rep. Brenda Carter; Rep. Felicia Brabec; Rep. Stephanie Young; Rep. Helena Scott; Rep. Cynthia Neeley; Rep. Donovan McKinney; Senator Mary Cavanagh; Senator Sylvia Santana; Rep. Kristian Grant; Rep. Jimmie Wilson; Rep. Jason Hoskins; Rep. Ranjeev Puri; Rep. Tyrone Carter; Rep. Kimberly Edwards; Rep. Karen Whitsett; Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist; Senator Winnie Brinks; Senator Sam Singh; Senator Jeremy Moss; Senator Darrin Camilleri; Senator Dayna Polehanki; Senator Malory McMorrow; Senator Aric Nesbitt; Senator Rick Outman; Senator Dan Lauwers; Senator Kevin Daley; Senator Roger Victory; Rep. Joe Tate; Rep. Laurie Pohutsky; Rep. Carol Glanville; Rep. Abraham Aiyash; Rep. Kara Hope; Majority Assistant Floor Leader: Rep. Betsy Coffia; Rep. Amos O'Neal; Rep. Matt Hall; Rep. Andrew Beeler; Rep. Bryan Posthumus; Rep. Graham Filler; Rep. Andrew Fink; Rep. Ken Borton; Rep. Sarah Lightner; Senator Gary Peters; Senator Debbie Stabenow

RE: Call for Policy Intervention for Marijuana Edibles and Safe Schools

As the Superintendent and School Board of Michigan's largest school district, we are compelled to address an issue that has become increasingly alarming within our schools: the proliferation and consumption of marijuana edibles and vape pens.

Since the legalization of marijuana, our District has observed a distressing escalation in drug-related infractions. To illustrate, from 2019-2021 we recorded 289 drug-related incidents, which have surged to 1,735 between 2021-2023. This school year alone, we have already faced 745 drug-related infractions as of last week. A week of school rarely passes where a student is not taken to the hospital due to intentional or unintentional consumption of edibles. This trend is unacceptable and calls for immediate policy intervention. The enclosed image captures part of the problem - in some cases marijuana edibles are indistinguishable from regular candy brands, misleading our students and facilitating the ease of their distribution within our schools.

We are proposing the following safety measures and interventions:

- **Mandatory Marijuana Labeling and Package Restrictions:** Laws should require all marijuana edibles (not just packaging) to be unmistakably labeled as such. Further, manufacturers should be prohibited from using packaging for marijuana edibles that imitates non-marijuana candy to eliminate any possibility of confusion.
- **Funding for Detection Systems:** Each school should be allocated funds to acquire detection systems for vape pens and marijuana, with the financing derived directly from the profits and taxes collected from marijuana sales.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** We urge for the initiation of public awareness campaigns, funded by marijuana legalization revenues, to educate on securing edibles away from children and the potential risks of their unsupervised access.

Students Rise. We all Rise



Office of the Superintendent

Fisher Building • 3011 West Grand Blvd., 14th Floor • Detroit, MI 48202
O (313) 873-3494 • communications@detroitk12.org

detroitk12.org

Your prompt and decisive action on this matter is not only appreciated but necessary. School day-to-day operations are being significantly disrupted as a result of the unintended consequences of properly legalizing marijuana. We are prepared to support these measures and provide additional insights as needed. Let us work together to prevent further harm and ensure the safety of our children, educators, and communities.

Sincerely,

Nikolai P. Vitti, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Detroit Public Schools Community District

Angelique Peterson-Mayberry
President

Iris Taylor, Ph.D.
Secretary

Bishop Corletta Vaughn
Member

Misha Stallworth
Vice President

Sherry Gay-Dagnogo
Member

Sonya Mays
Treasurer

LaTrice McClendon
Member

CC: Alycia Meriweather, Deputy Superintendent, DPSCD
Nidia Ashby, Chief of Schools, DPSCD
Chrystal Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, DPSCD
Labrit Jackson, Chief of Police, DPSCD
Dwayne Gill, Associate Vice President, Governmental Consultant Services Inc.

Students Rise. We all Rise

DPSCD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, religion, height, weight, citizenship, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, in its educational programs and activities, including employment and admissions. Questions? Concerns? contact the Civil Rights Coordinator at (313) 240-4377 or dpscd.compliance@detroitk12.org or 3011 West Grand Boulevard, 14th Floor, Detroit MI 48202.

Enclosure: Photograph provided by the Detroit Police Department of marijuana edibles



Students Rise. We all Rise

DPSCD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, religion, height, weight, citizenship, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, in its educational programs and activities, including employment and admissions. Questions? Concerns? contact the Civil Rights Coordinator at (313) 240-4377 or dpscd.compliance@detroitk12.org or 3011 West Grand Boulevard, 14th Floor, Detroit MI 48202.