

Resolution

Support for a Legal Minimum Sales Age of 21 to Purchase Tobacco Products

WHEREAS, there has been a substantial increase in tobacco use rates among teens for the first time in 17 years;

WHEREAS, the increase in tobacco use among teens has been attributed primarily to the marketing, sale, and use of electronic cigarettes, vape and other electronic nicotine delivery systems. The growing use of these devices has become a prominent issue in Duluth Public Schools.

WHEREAS, the rise in nicotine addiction among middle school and high school aged youth represents a clear threat to their future health.

WHEREAS, the School District has adopted a Wellness Policy to promote healthy choices in our schools;

WHEREAS, the policy to change the minimum legal sales age of 21 to purchase tobacco products (T21) will effectively keep more kids from becoming addicted to nicotine before they are out of high school and is a common sense response that reflects our community's commitment to "health in all policies" to and advancing health equity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that because of this threat to the health and well-being of our community and the costs associated with tobacco and nicotine use that the Duluth School Board encourages the Duluth City Council to pass an ordinance to raise the age required to purchase tobacco products to age 21.