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Tobacco-Free Campus: E-Cigarettes

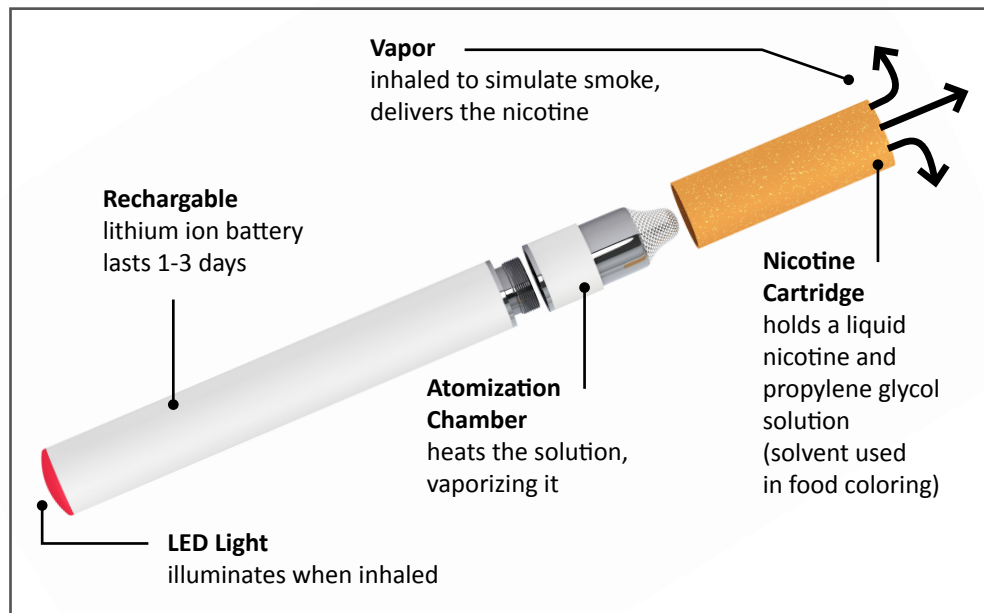
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Tobacco-Free Campus: E-Cigarettes

Electronic cigarettes – also known as e-cigarettes – are one of many products categorized as Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). These products allow users to mimic the act of smoking while heating liquid containing nicotine, flavor additives, and other chemicals. Devices often look like real cigarettes, however, some resemble pens or other objects.

ENDS are metal or plastic tubes that contain a cartridge filled with a liquid that is vaporized by a battery powered heating element. The aerosol is inhaled by the user when they draw on the device as they would a regular cigarette. The user then exhales a cloud of secondhand aerosol that includes toxins and other pollutants. ENDS come in a wide variety of designs, flavors, and nicotine levels.

ENDS are currently not regulated by a governmental agency. Nonetheless, these products are being included in smoke-free and tobacco-free initiatives across the country, meaning they are banned anywhere there is a policy prohibiting the use of tobacco products.



The S.C. General Assembly noted the potential risk of nicotine addiction with ENDS and amended the state's Youth Access to Tobacco Prevention Act to make it illegal for youth to purchase or possess these products.

Many S.C. municipalities and businesses with smoke-free ordinances have amended their policies to prohibit ENDS. In keeping with this trend, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control will also include a ban on ENDS in all *A Healthier State* tobacco-free campus efforts.

For help quitting, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. For more information about e-cigarettes, call (803) 545-4463.