

January 15, 2020

James Sonju  
Elementary Principal  
Lincoln K–8 District-Wide School

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Principal Sonju,

I am writing as a biologist and on behalf of [TeachKind](#), PETA's humane education division, which works with thousands of schools around the country to bring compassion into the classroom. After reading a disturbing [article](#) about deadly vaping liquid experiments on zebrafish at Lincoln K–8 District-Wide School, **we urge you to end these deadly experiments and to pledge never to test on animals again.**

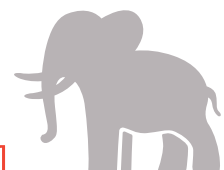
The article indicates that zebrafish were exposed to vaping liquid and that all died as a result. It's unclear how the fish were obtained and whether a district representative approved the experiment.

As you know, encouraging inquisitive young minds is a critical part of education, but this poorly designed experiment is both ineffective and misguided. It seems you praised the experiment as having relevance to public health, which is patently false. Dissolving zebrafish in vaping chemicals doesn't tell us anything about the effect of the liquid on *human* lungs, nor will it help stop the youth vaping epidemic. Instead, this experiment teaches students the dangerous lesson that animals are merely tools to be used, experimented on, and killed.

This experiment is not only irrelevant and cruel but also at odds with the best-practice guidelines set by major science education organizations around the world. The largest is the National Science Teaching Association, which advises teachers *not to conduct any experiments on live animals that involve causing harm or distress*, and its policy on animal use in the classroom states that it is important for educators to "[e]spouse the importance of not conducting experimental procedures on animals if such procedures are likely to cause pain, induce nutritional deficiencies, or expose animals to parasites, hazardous/toxic chemicals, or radiation."

On behalf of PETA's more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, including many who proudly reside in Minnesota, thank you for your time and attention. **May I please hear from you regarding this important matter?** I can be contacted at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



**Samantha Suiter, M.A.**  
**Science Education Manager**

cc: Michael Muñoz, Superintendent, Rochester Public Schools ( [REDACTED] )

