



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



**Dr. Charlene Williams**  
Director of the Department of Education

**January 15, 2024**

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

Oregon is facing an opioid crisis and our youth need prevention education. Senate Bill 238 (2023 law) requires ODE to collaborate with Oregon Health Authority and Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission to develop curricula supplements related to the dangers of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl or any substituted derivative of fentanyl, and good Samaritan laws. These supplements are to be implemented by school districts by the 2024-2025 school year. Without funding, ODE plans to review existing curriculum, and will post a limited number of curriculum supplements that are aligned to Oregon's health standards on the ODE webpage and on the Oregon Open Learning. This will not be sufficient to effectively ensure that educators are provided both professional learning and high-quality curriculum supplements to adequately teach prevention lessons about opioid prevention. ODE is seeking \$1,988,595 in General Funds to support the development of curriculum supplements and resources that address the Opioid crisis and meet the requirements of Senate Bill 238.

## **Agency Action**

ODE has been collaborating with Oregon Health Authority and the Alcohol Drug Policy Commission over the last five months through regular meetings to plan and strategize how to best implement the requirements of Senate Bill 238. ODE began a nationwide scan and review of materials to determine what models might work for Oregon. There has also been engagement in rule revision for OAR [581-022-2045](#) Prevention Education in Drugs and Alcohol. The ODE Health Education Specialist led a team to begin drafting curricular supplements to be used



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in middle schools and high schools. In addition, a survey was created to gather input from youth on what should be included in these materials. There has been collaboration with the Oregon Open Learning team to ensure statewide access to the supplements that are being created. Additionally, ODE's Director of Standards and Instructional Supports presented at the Attorney General's "No time to spare! Confronting Oregon's Fentanyl Crisis" to share with community partners ODE's prevention efforts to implement Senate Bill 238.

## Action Requested

To support districts with the implementation of Senate Bill 238 and to address the opioid crisis, ODE is requesting a total of \$1.99 million for prevention through the following four strategies:

1. **Contract with a curriculum provider (\$800,000 GF):** Allows ODE to develop 2-3 lessons per grade band and adapt curriculum supplements that are specifically designed for Oregon schools.
2. **Provide professional learning and resources (\$500,000 GF):** Allows ODE to develop Professional Learning modules and tools that can be used by districts.
3. **Collaborate with OHA and ADPC develop a social media campaign (\$500,000 GF) :** Allows ODE to develop communication resources targeted for K-5; 6-8 and HS students (in multiple languages).
4. **Staffing: Permanent Program Analyst 4 position (\$188,595 GF):** This position will manage contracts, communication, review curriculum materials, and serve as the ODE substance use prevention expert.

## Legislation Affected

This action, if approved, would amend HB 5014 (2023 laws) Chapter 449 Section 1 (1) to add \$1,988,595.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charlene Williams (she/her)

Agency Director

Oregon Department of Education

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