

Healthy, Substance Free
Schools Learning Environments

To ensure student wellbeing and optimal use of educational resources, the Portland Public Schools Board of Education and the staff of the district support healthy, substance-free learning environments for students and school staff. The district recognizes that the use of substances is a major cause of health problems nationwide and that many issues associated with these health problems are preventable with education and treatment. Illicit substance use is a complex issue and ~~that~~ mental health needs often play a role. Accomplishing our shared goal of a productive learning environment requires a cooperative effort among school administrators, staff, students, parents, public agencies and organizations focused on supporting youth facing substance use and mental health challenges.

The District's goal is to intervene, educate, and support students and their parents/guardians at the earliest signs of a problem. It is critical that we put student learning at the forefront and minimize use of exclusionary discipline for students with substance use violations while maintaining a safe and productive learning environment for all. Substance+ includes all mood-altering substances or facsimiles thereof, including medications that have not been prescribed for the student or are being used in a manner that is not consistent with the prescriptions, drugs, or alcohol.

~~The Board recognizes that students with African American, Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islander ancestry, English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and students living in poverty (Historically Underserved) experience disproportionate actions in response to their behavior. The Board desires to identify areas of support to minimize substance use and improve mental health for these and all students.~~

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It is not considered self-disclosure when a student admits substance use and/or requests assistance for substance abuse during the course of an investigation of possible substance use misconduct. If a student discloses prohibited substance use in the course of an investigation into a situation in which they are the victim, they shall not be penalized for that use, and will be offered support and resources to encourage healthy choices.

Under the supervision of the Superintendent, the Office of Student Support Services is responsible for developing appropriate administrative procedures, curricula, and programs to implement the Healthy, Substance Free Schools Learning Environments