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**Oregon Department of Education and
Oregon Health Authority
Oregon University System**

Activities toward the Prevention of Student Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Background

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) consider substance abuse to be a serious community matter and assumes a position of intolerance toward any substance use that negatively impacts educational environments. In support of this position, ODE ensures that districts maintain policies related to the prevention of and response to acts of substance abuse as outlined in ORS 336.222. In support of ODE, OHA works with the ODE to determine district compliance with the statutory requirement.

These expectations are currently bound predominantly in two ways:

- 1) By district assurancesⁱ signed and maintained under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), that certify adherence to the specific Title IV-A safety expectations, such as:
 - The activities or program comply with principles of effectiveness and foster a safe and drug free learning environment.
 - The drug and violence prevention programs convey a clear and consistent message that acts of violence and illegal use of drugs are wrong and harmful.
 - The schools and LEAs have a plan for keeping schools safe and drug free.

- 2) By district assurances signed and maintained under Division 22 Assurances of Oregon's Administrative Rules. Under these assurances districts certify and maintain evidence of their compliance with all of the Standards for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools as set out in Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) as set out in Chapter 581, Division 22.
 - Among those, OAR 581-22-0413 states that each school district shall develop a comprehensive plan for alcohol and drug abuse prevention program.

In addition, under and ORS 336.109, school districts are encouraged to develop and adopt a comprehensive policy to reduce gang involvement, violent activities and drug abuse by public school students in the school district.

Funding

Until 2009-2010, many districts used federal Title IV Safe and Drug Free funds to support their prevention- and response-oriented activities. However, in 2009-2010, the United States Department of Education discontinued this federal funding source. For the 2010-2011 school year, districts with remaining 2009-2010 Title IV-A funds were permitted to continue to utilize them (carry-over) upon request. Funds “carried over” into the 2010-2011 school year are still monitored and subject to the requirements specified under Title IV-A. OHA is responsible for the Governor’s Portion of the United States Department of Education Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools revenue. As with the ODE, these funds have been terminated as of September 30, 2011. The Governor’s Portion of the Title IV funds was let out to ten counties who competitively bid for the revenues and adhered to the requirements to work with districts in maintaining prevention curriculum and educational information.

For any districts without remaining funds in 2010-2011, and for *all* districts in the 2011-2012 school year until further notice, paid prevention resources must be supported by locally- and/or state-discovered funding sources. The Oregon Health Authority – Addictions and Mental Health Division contracts with all 36 counties and 9 tribes for the hiring of a prevention coordinator and the delivery of services throughout the county including within the school districts. Prevention coordinators are sincerely invested in working with schools in the delivery of substance abuser prevention programs.

Prevention Programs

The ODE and OHA do not recommend any specific prevention curriculum or activity related to alcohol or drug prevention, however, under Title IV-A and any OHA funded prevention programs in the schools, districts and schools are required to use only Evidence-Based programs in support of their prevention activities. Commonly Title IV-A expenditures were on curricula (such as Michigan Model, Life Skills Training, and the Great Body Shop); professional development trainings, and Staff time (e.g. At-risk coordinators, counselors).

ODE maintains a web-based resource repository that allows districts to select from among a variety of local and national evidence-based programs <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1320>. This expectation will remain in place for any future state involvement in district safety programming. OHA has a similar website of 106 evidence-based prevention programs that districts can use <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/ebp/practices.shtml>.

State Prevention Resources

Bridge Grant

In 2010-2011, ODE received a small Building State Capacity Grant from the Office of Safe and Drug Free schools (CFDA# 84.184W) which OHA had endorsed. Grants were awarded to 28 states in support of building state capacity for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse.

Oregon’s efforts are on three main capacity building objectives:

- Build on the collaborative partnership with OHA and other state agencies to benefit schools and districts;

- To continue to refine the existing evidence-based prevention programs websites to facilitate school and district access and use of the programs;
- Maintaining an ongoing system to locate funding sources.

Work of this grant is currently underway and directly addresses the work outlined for state agencies by ORS 336.245 as it relates to ORS 336.222 and ORS 336.227. Staff from ODE and OHA are working on developing an advanced OHA County and Tribal Prevention Coordinator's manual that provides county and tribal prevention coordinators with specific information on how best to work with district and school systems as it relates to prevention efforts, and conversely provides schools and districts knowledge of resources already accessible to them through the OHA system. The current manual is posted at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/prevention/prev-coordinators-manual.pdf> and updates reflecting specific school and district links will be developed in the 2010-2011 school year.

State Initiatives and Expertise

For the past seven years, ODE has used Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds to support a statewide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative directed at building a district's capacity to use data to assist students and adults in behavioral management. Though the scope of PBIS is not directed at drug and alcohol related prevention, the tenets of PBIS in elementary and secondary schools provide students with behavioral tools that promote self-management in a variety of environments including not using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

State Data

Finally, ODE continues to maintain the state Discipline Incidents Collection which collects detailed behavioral data across all 196 districts. Data from this collection are used as part of the state's federally mandated Unsafe School Policy formula <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1319>. In 2010 the OHA administered a revised student survey to 6th, 8th and 11 grades students in 77% of the districts throughout Oregon. The revised student survey, the Student Wellness Survey (SWS), captured information about school climate and school – student relations in addition to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. The findings of the SWS are posted by county on the OHA website <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/prevention.shtml>. OHA works with county and tribal prevention coordinators in the use of the SWS findings to work with districts and schools in guiding the selection of evidence-based programs to address local needs.

Oregon University System

In consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, per ORS 336.245, the seven public universities that comprise the Oregon University System each maintain comprehensive alcohol and drug abuse policies, implementation plans, and procedures on their respective campuses. Each university conducts a biennial review of its compliance with the federal Drug-Free Campus and Community Act, provides annual notification to all appropriate constituencies, and maintains ongoing policies and practices designed to educate, prevent, intervene, and otherwise fulfill its responsibilities under the Act. Beyond compliance, however, OUS is committed to student health and wellness and their critical connection to student success, graduation, career success, and model citizenship.

Under the leadership of chief student affairs officers and human resources directors at each university, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, education, and intervention activities are cross-functional and involve multiple departments on each campus, including (but not limited to) Human Resources, Student Health Centers, Counseling/Psychological Services, Housing & Residence Life, Public Safety, the Dean of Students, and Student Judicial Affairs. In addition, on some campuses, health educators specialize in education and prevention activities, typically under the leadership of the Student Health Center director.

Biennial Compliance Reviews, documentation of annual reporting, and summaries of education, prevention, and intervention activities on each Oregon University System campus can be found at the OUS Government Relations web page, at: <http://www.ous.edu/dept/govrel>.

¹ An average of 96% of Oregon districts sign these assurances annually.

A complete list of current NCLB assurances is posted at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=890>