

Annually Required Substance Use Prevention Lessons

Senate Bill 238 and House Bill 5204

Spotlight on Synthetic Opioids, Including Fentanyl

Oregon has experienced a [dramatic rise in overdose deaths due to synthetic opioids \(such as fentanyl\)](#) among school-aged youth. [Fentanyl](#) is now showing up in a wide variety of drugs on the illicit market, including counterfeit pills made to look like common medications. A small amount of fentanyl in one of these pills can be enough to cause an overdose. To ensure students have accurate information, and develop skills to help avoid, minimize use, and/or reduce harm, the 2024 legislature made a substantial investment in prevention education.

Annually Required Prevention Lessons

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, **all Oregon school districts and public charter schools are required to implement one of the ODE Synthetic Opioid Prevention Lessons at each grade level** (grade 6, 7, 8 and at least once in high school). The ODE Synthetic Opioid Prevention Lessons will be posted on the [ODE Health Education webpage](#) by October 15, 2024.

The lessons are meant to be a part of a comprehensive substance use prevention unit covered in health education classes. These lessons may also be covered in other classes. All lessons are aligned to the [2023 Oregon Health Education Standards](#) and include a teacher guidance to support implementation.

Background

As directed by [Senate Bill 238](#), the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Alcohol Drug Policy Commission began developing required lessons focused on the dangers of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl or any substituted derivative of fentanyl, and counterfeit and fake drugs. The bill also includes a requirement to provide education on Good Samaritan laws, which offer protection to individuals who report substance use or seek help for drug or alcohol overdoses.

Professional Learning

Opportunities for professional learning and technical assistance will be provided in 2024-2025. Resources will include a teacher’s guide, a glossary of terms, background information on creating a safe and trauma-informed classroom, and local substance use prevention/treatment resources.

ODE and District Roles and Responsibilities for Implementation of SB 238

ODE’s Role:	District’s Role:
Develop approved Opioid Prevention Lessons.	Implement one approved Opioid Prevention lesson in grades 6, 7, 8 and once in high school.
Develop statewide policy and guidance	Ensure lessons are implemented in the 2024-2025 school year
Provide statewide technical assistance	Provide local professional learning opportunities
Oversee district compliance with OAR 581-022-2045	Update substance use prevention and intervention plan as part of Division 22
Communicate and update school districts on new policies, resources, and opportunities	Communicate with local communities and families

Timeline for Implementation

ODE will take the following key steps to support districts to offer substance use prevention education.

Summer-Fall 2024

- Lessons posted on ODE Health Education website
- Professional learning opportunities for teachers
- ODE hires permanent Substance Use Prevention Education Coordinator

Winter 2024-Spring 2025

- Professional Learning opportunities for teachers
- Teacher feedback survey on lessons
- Social media campaign on substance use prevention launches

Contact Us for More Information

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