



Oregon Approved Recovery Schools FAQ: 2024

Purpose

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about HB 2767 (2023), which is intended to provide oversight and funding for Approved Recovery Schools in Oregon, not to be confused with *credit recovery* programs. Approved Recovery Schools provide education and support for students in recovery from substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges.

Overview of House Bill (HB) 2767

HB 2767 established a limited number of Approved Recovery Schools in Oregon. These schools, under an agreement with the Department of Education, will provide students with a specialized high school education experience, tailored to meet the needs of students with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges. The new law requires standards for Approved Recovery Schools, graduation, evaluation and recovery school accreditation guidance.

What is the purpose of Approved Recovery Schools?

Approved Recovery schools serve several essential purposes in supporting students with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges:

- **Create a Safe and Supportive Environment:** Approved Recovery Schools will provide a safe and supportive environment where enrolled students can focus on their recovery from substance use and pursue a traditional high school diploma.
- **Ensure Academic Continuity:** Approved Recovery Schools will ensure that students continue an educational path that leads to graduation, while receiving the necessary support, differentiated instruction and resources needed to address their substance use and co-occurring behavioral health care needs.
- **Provide Comprehensive Substance Use and Behavioral Health Related Services:** Approved Recovery Schools will provide a comprehensive approach to recovery support, integrating substance use education, mental and behavioral health supports, and coping skills development into academic and SEL coursework.
- **Establish and Maintain Peer Supports and Forge a Sustainable Sense of Community:** Approved Recovery Schools will provide a sense of community and belonging for students who are in

recovery. These communities are small by design and incorporate peer support to enhance bonds between students and enable staff to provide social emotional learning opportunities and support recovery practices for students to live in recovery with their peers.

- **Empower Long-Term Recovery:** By addressing substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges early in adolescence, Approved Recovery Schools help students develop the skills, resources, and support networks they need to maintain long-term recovery and lead healthy, fulfilling lives beyond high school.

What is the difference between an Approved Recovery School and a credit recovery program?

Recovery high schools and credit recovery programs serve different purposes and focus on distinct populations of students:

- **Recovery High School:** The primary purpose of a recovery high school is to provide a supportive environment for students with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health education, integrating academic coursework with substance use education, mental health counseling, and support services aimed at fostering long-term recovery and academic success. The focus is on addressing the underlying issues contributing to substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges while supporting academic achievement, which leads to graduation.
- **Credit Recovery Program:** Credit recovery programs are designed to help students who have fallen behind in course credits to catch up and graduate on time. They are open to any student who needs to make up credits to meet graduation requirements and typically focus solely on providing students with the opportunity to earn the credits needed for graduation.

Who can open an Approved Recovery School?

- Oregon School Districts, Oregon ESDs, and Oregon public charters are eligible to apply and operate an approved recovery school.
- Approved Recovery Schools are established by contract with ODE and must be applied for through a Request for Application (RFA) process.

What is the process and timeline to apply?

- Informational guidance sessions, and ongoing support will be held in May, 2024 for interested applicants.
- Before the application opens, there will be pertinent information available as you consider applying.
- This FAQ will be updated as needed.
- The RFA is anticipated to open in June of 2024.
- The deadline for application submission will be 30-45 days from release.
- No more than three (3) contracts will be offered in August of 2024 for the 24-25 school year
- The RFA will open again in winter of 2025 for the next (3) contracts to open in the 25-26 school year.

If my school district/ESD/charter school is interested in applying, what should we be working on right now?

- Research and review data around substance use and co-occurring behavioral health needs among teens in your community.
- Begin having discussions with your special education and alternative education departments in order to determine the need.
- Cultivate partnerships with community providers, drug and alcohol programs, mental health agencies, youth organizations, and culturally specific organizations. Recovery high schools typically offer an extended day program with extracurricular activities for youth to promote and support recovery in the community.
- Begin looking for an appropriate site for a recovery high school. It is required that an Approved Recovery School be in a separate location from other high schools in the community.
- Review the information provided on the [ODE Recovery Schools](#) webpage.

How are Approved Recovery Schools funded?

The new law provides a unique funding structure to include a high school education experience and to meet graduation requirements, provide special education services, substance use supports and behavioral health services.

- State funding allows for the opening up to three (3) Approved Recovery Schools per biennium, with a maximum of nine (9) recovery high schools throughout Oregon, by July 2029.
- Approved Recovery Schools will be funded with sufficient base funding in addition to a per student ADM. Funding will be separate from regular school district State School Fund (SSF) grants and will combine some SSF and Statewide Education Initiative Account (SEIA) funds.
- Special education funding will be available to school districts, charters and ESDs within the contract with ODE and dependent on the number of students eligible to receive special education services.

Are Approved Recovery Schools required to be accredited?

Yes. All Approved Recovery Schools in Oregon are required to be accredited by the Association of Recovery Schools (ARS). Typically, schools seek accreditation after their third year of operation. It will be a requirement for ongoing operation to be accredited by the fifth year of operation and maintain accreditation status in subsequent years.

Where can I learn more about recovery high schools?

- [Oregon Department of Education : Recovery Schools](#)
- [Association of Recovery Schools](#)

What if I have more questions?

- For additional questions on these or other topics, please email: ode.recoveryschools@ode.oregon.gov