



# Oregon Approved Recovery High 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 Recovery High Schools in Oregon, not to be confused with *credit recovery* programs. Recovery High Schools provide education and support for students in recovery from substance use and co-occurring mental health challenges.

## Overview of House Bill (HB) 2767

HB 2767 established a limited number of approved Recovery High 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 mental health challenges. The new law requires standards for approved recovery schools, graduation, evaluation and recovery school accreditation guidance.

## What is the purpose of Recovery High Schools?

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

- **Safe and Supportive Environment:** Recovery high schools provide a safe and supportive environment where students can focus on their recovery without the pressures and triggers that may exist in traditional high school settings.
- **Academic Continuity:** Recovery high schools ensure that students continue their education, which leads to graduation, while receiving the necessary support and resources to address their substance use and co-occurring mental health care needs.
- **Comprehensive Services:** Recovery high schools offer a comprehensive approach to recovery support, integrating substance use education, mental health and behavioral health supports, and coping skills development into academic coursework.
- **Peer Support and Sense of Community:** Recovery high schools provide a sense of community and belonging for students who may feel isolated or misunderstood in traditional high school settings.
- **Long-Term Recovery Support:** By addressing substance use and co-occurring mental health challenges early in adolescence, recovery high 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 a recovery high 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 mental health challenges. These specialized high schools offer a comprehensive approach to 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 mental 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 sessions, guidance, support, and office hours will begin in April of 2024 for interested applicants.
- Before the application opens, there will be component information and a checklist for the RFA.
- 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 and 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 mental 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 recommended that an approved recovery high school be in a separate location from other high schools in the community.

### **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) recovery high schools per biennium, with a maximum of nine (9) recovery high schools throughout Oregon, by July 2029.
- Approved recovery high 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](#)
- [Oregon Recovery High School Initiative](#) (ORHSI)

### **What if I have more questions?**

- For additional questions on these or other topics, please email: [ode.recoveryschools@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ode.recoveryschools@ode.oregon.gov)