

FAQ: District Comprehensive Substance Use Prevention and Intervention Plans

Per [OAR 581-022-2045](#), Oregon K-12 school districts and public charter schools are required to develop Comprehensive Substance Use Prevention and Intervention Plans (referred to as “Plans” for the remainder of this document). Below are frequently asked questions to support districts and education partners in developing and implementing their Plans.

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1. What does OAR 581-022-2045 require districts to have?

OAR 581-022-2045 requires districts to have a Comprehensive Substance Use Prevention and Intervention Plan. Plans must address requirements in each of the following categories:

- K-12 Instruction
- Policies, Rules and Procedures
- Communication with students, staff, and families
- Community Engagement and School Board Approval
- Staff Development

ODE developed an [Implementation Tool](#) that districts may use to review Plan requirements and evaluate their Plans for compliance with all components of [OAR 581-022-2045](#).

2. Is this a new requirement this school year?

No, the requirement for districts to have a board-approved Comprehensive Substance Use Prevention and Intervention Plan **is not new and has not been updated or revised for this school year**. Districts that did not have all the required components of [OAR 581-022-2045](#) in place for the prior school year must report on their current year assurances that they were out of compliance. They will then have until the beginning of the following school year to put together their plans and obtain local School Board approval.

3. Do Plans need to be in writing?

Yes, the Comprehensive Substance Use Prevention and Intervention Plans must be written. There is no specific requirement for how Plans are formatted, however districts may choose to use the [template](#) provided by ODE.

4. Is a Plan the same thing as the district’s drug and alcohol policy?

No, the policy is considered a part of the comprehensive plan. Per [ORS 336.222](#), “each district school board shall adopt a comprehensive alcohol and drug abuse policy **and** implementation plan.” OAR [581-022-2045](#) further clarifies that, in addition to other requirements, the district’s plan must contain “policies, rules, and procedures that:

- Include a philosophy statement relating to drug-free schools and the established tobacco-free policies and procedures for students, staff and visitors.
- Define the nature and extent of the district's program, including a plan to access and use federal funds;
- State that alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by student is illegal and harmful;
- In accordance with OAR 581-021-0050 and 581-021-0055, indicate the consequences for using and/or selling alcohol and other drugs, including the specific rule of the school as it relates to law enforcement agencies;
- Describe the district's intervention and referral procedures, including those for drug-related medical emergencies;
- Indicate clearly that the school district's jurisdiction includes all school sponsored events including student activities; and
- Are reviewed and updated annually.”

5. Do Plans need to be posted publicly?

No, there is no requirement to publicly post a district’s Plan. However, ODE recommends that districts make Plans available to the public to ensure that students and families are aware of how the district supports substance use prevention and intervention. ODE also strongly recommends that Plans are accessible for all school staff to facilitate consistency and fidelity of implementation.

6. Does the Plan need to be approved by the District School Board?

Yes, per OAR 581-022-2045, the plan must be approved by the School Board after consultation from parents/caregivers, teachers, students, school administrators, local community agencies, and persons from the health or alcohol and drug service community who are knowledgeable of the latest research information.

7. What is required to be considered to meet the requirements of the “staff development” component of Section 3 of this rule?

All district staff must be informed annually of the district’s Plan and their roles and responsibilities within this plan. For example, an administrator could provide an overview of the Plan during an in-service or all-staff meeting. Additionally, districts are required to provide “alcohol and drug use prevention education” to all staff. This does not need to be the same training for all staff members and can be incorporated into other professional learning that aligns with staff members’ individual roles, such as training in TSEL or other mental health topics. While not required, districts are strongly encouraged to provide more in-depth training for staff members that aligns with their specific role(s) within the plan. As an example, health educators in a district may receive professional development related to delivering substance use prevention education, while counselors may receive training related to screening and referral for substance use concerns.

8. What resources are available for districts to use when developing their Plans?

ODE maintains a variety of resources that districts can use to develop, implement, and evaluate their plans on the Substance Use Prevention and Intervention [webpage](#). It may also be helpful to review the [Best Practice Spotlight on this topic](#) from the June 2025 Division 22 Professional Learning session. Along with detailed information about the Plan requirements, the video also includes a conversation with a district superintendent who recently went through the strategic planning process to develop a Plan. Schools, districts, and ESDs may also contact the ODE Substance Use Prevention Education Coordinator for technical assistance.

Contact Information

For additional questions, information, and technical assistance please contact the **ODE Substance Use Prevention Coordinator** at ode.substance-prevention@ode.oregon.gov.