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# Tips for Working with Schools from Oregon Department of Education

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| **1** |  | The best times to approach schools are October, late January, February and early May. |
| **2** |  | If possible, approach a school with an internal partner; e.g., a teacher or parent you already have a relationship with.  |
| **3** |  | Working with schools should be a partnership. Explain what you can offer and why you benefit from working with schools. |
| **4** |  | Ask yourself, “Why Should They Care?” Why are your prevention services important? Be brief and to the point.  |
| **5** |  | Use local (school or county) data if possible, to talk about prevention in the school.  |
| **6** |  | Know the education language. The word “standards” means one thing to someone in public health and something very different to a teacher. |
| **7** |  | Align what you are offering to curriculum standards, school policies, raising test scores, increasing attendance, etc. |
| **8** |  | Many teachers and other school staff are overwhelmed, so don’t add something to their plate. Consider having them do what they do, but in a different way.  |
| **9** |  | Schools are stressed. There is overall a lack of funding, support, resources and pressure to raise test scores. If you can offer a solution (for example, be a resource) you’re in! |
| **10** |  | Ask questions. If you don’t understand something, explain that you come from a different perspective and schools are a different beast.  |