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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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() Action Required

(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 059-24 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, EARLY LEARNING, AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS/SECONDARY EDUCATION AND PATHWAY PREPARATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
Educational Service District Assistant Superintendents
School Building Principals
School District Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Administrators
School District Technology Coordinators

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Fentanyl/Opioid Use and Abuse Learning Outcomes Addendum in Washington
K–12 Learning Standards for Health Education

CONTACT: Ken Turner, Associate Director – Content, Physical Education
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Laurie Dils, Associate Director – Content, Health and Sexual Health
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PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Washington State Legislature passed [House Bill \(HB\) 1956](#) in 2024, to provide an immediate response to opioid overdose as a public health crisis. As part of the response, the Department of Health has been charged with developing and deploying a statewide overdose prevention and awareness campaign. The public education system has a critical role in supporting this coordinated effort to support classroom, family, and community-based education and communication.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), in collaboration with many partners, will support the public health campaign by 1) updating the Washington K–12 Learning Standards for Health Education to include opioids within middle and high school substance use and abuse education, 2) developing and disseminating age-appropriate materials for school and classroom use, and 3) supporting the distribution of the statewide overdose prevention and awareness campaign materials developed by the Washington State Department of Health

(WSDOH), to school districts, public schools, educational service districts, and community-based organizations.

Updating Washington State Learning Standards

At the request of the legislature, the updated learning standards included in the [Washington K–12 Learning Standards for Health Education Addendum: Fentanyl/Opioid Use](#) go into effect at the start of the 2024–25 school year. OSPI recommends school districts use the new grade-level learning outcomes in their middle and high school health education classes or other instruction where substance use education is delivered. Each new learning outcome has an education resource or lesson plan to support the instructional intent. Further revision of the Health Education K–12 Learning Standards will take place during OSPI’s upcoming [standards review process](#). This change does not affect the timing or process of the upcoming standards review.

Existing resources to support fentanyl/opioid education include:

- OSPI: [Opioid Guidance 2023](#)
- Washington State Department of Health: [Naloxone in High Schools](#)
- Washington State Health Care Authority: [Friends for Life: Facts About Fentanyl](#) (Middle and High School Presentations and Activities; Naloxone Information)
- Washington State Health Care Authority: [Starts with One Campaign](#) (Prevention Campaign Toolkit, other resources for youth and adults)
- [StopOverdose.Org](#): Materials, Toolkits, Washington State Naloxone Finder
- EverFi: [Prescription Drug Safety: Know the Truth](#)
- Stanford Medicine REACH Lab: [Safety First Lessons](#)

Additional Resources to Support Implementation

OSPI, WSDOH, Health Care Authority, and Educational Service Districts will collaborate to develop school and classroom materials that support the statewide public health campaign. OSPI will share those materials once they become available.

Information and Assistance

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Ken Turner, Associate Director – Content, Physical Education, at 206-617-0288 or email ken.turner@k12.wa.us or Laurie Dils, Associate Director – Content, Health and Sexual Health, at 360-725-6364, or email laurie.dils@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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CR:lh

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