



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Tribal School Opioid Education Pilot Project Update

2024

**Authorizing Legislation: House Bill 1956 (2024), Senate
Bill 5950 Sec. 522 (4)(v)(ii) (2024)**

Henry Strom

Executive Director, Office of Native Education

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Legislature directed the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to collaborate with the Department of Health (DOH) and Health Care Authority (HCA) to develop age-appropriate substance use prevention and awareness materials for school and classroom uses and to periodically update the materials to align with the statewide Drug Overdose Prevention and Awareness Campaign. OSPI is also directed to actively distribute the developed materials to school districts, public schools, educational service districts, and community-based organizations that provide extended learning opportunities, and to strongly encourage the incorporation of age-appropriate materials in classrooms, as well as in family and community communications.

The Office of Native Education (ONE) is directed to collaborate with state-tribal education compact schools (STECs), and Tribal before and after school programs to implement a one-year pilot project to develop, review, and select opioid and fentanyl abuse prevention materials and resources to be used in the pilot program during the 2024–25 school year. The final report to the appropriate committees will include the pilot program initial results, experiences, or both, in the volunteering STECs; and will provide recommendations and considerations for employing the materials and resources, with or without changes to improve their effectiveness or implementation, statewide.

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Native Education (ONE) entered this work in April 2024 and was introduced to a variety of state agency staff from DOH, HCA, and OSPI leading various efforts to combat the fentanyl and opioid epidemic in Washington state. The collaboration that wove naturally through building and strengthening the connection of three agencies who didn't always work in partnership was one of the biggest

highlights witnessed through the partnership identified by the Legislature. Through this collaboration and partnership, each agency has been able to provide a wraparound approach with support and educational resources to our communities across Washington state.

Tribes are leading this effort

Candice Wilson, DOH, provided opening remarks in a partner convening that reminded all partners of the tireless efforts by our Tribes to combat the fentanyl/opioid epidemic and reminds us to continue to support Tribes' efforts.

The tribal schools' education pilot project is an appropriation of \$900,000 to provide funding to STECs and Tribal before and after school programs to develop, adopt, and implement a curriculum in the 2024–25 school year. The ONE implementation lead has consulted with parties of interest and expertise to volunteer for the pilot project. To date, the ONE team has identified four STECs who have expressed interest in being a part of the pilot program. The materials and resources must include culturally appropriate application across the pilot program; and ONE will submit a plan to the appropriate committees of the Legislature detailing the implementation of the opioid and fentanyl abuse prevention materials and resources in the volunteering STECs during the 2024–25 school year.

Grant Opportunity

Tribal Schools Before & After School Program Pilot Project

The Office of Native Education Executive Director Henry Strom identified Rebecca Purser as the implementation lead and lead writer of the update and final reporting to the appropriate committees. The tribal schools pilot project implementation plan was submitted to Executive Director Strom, as well as OSPI's Government Relations (GR), Fiscal, and Communications (Comms) divisions and has been approved. The Healing of the Canoe (HOC) curricula (recommended curricula) is a curriculum that was developed in partnership between the University of Washington and the Suquamish Tribe and is rooted in the traditional teachings from the canoe and the traditional ways of life to prevent youth from using substances.

The ONE implementation lead has partnered with the ONE *John McCoy (lulilash) Since Time Immemorial* team to offer a train-the-trainer opportunity for participating grantees to strengthen their knowledge around HOC and to not only implement this curriculum, but to train other staff within their school who will take part in the implementation of the HOC curriculum. Through this work, the implementation lead has made internal connections within OSPI teams: ONE, GR, Student Engagement and Support (SES), Fiscal, grants, and has engaged regularly to establish external connections leading this work which includes, but is not limited to, STECs, Tribes, Tribal Leaders Congress on Education (TLC), Washington Native American Education Consortium (WNAEC), HOC,

Washington State Indian Education Association (WSIEA), Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee (WSNAEAC), Department of Health (DOH), Health Care Authority (HCA), National Indian Education Association (NIEA), the American Indian Health Commission, and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to ensure this specific work is honoring Tribal sovereignty and is recognizing the tireless efforts our Tribes have done and continue to do to combat this epidemic of fentanyl and opioids in our schools and communities. The Tribal Schools Opioid Prevention Pilot grant application is going through the final stages of creation. A rolling launch is available through early October 2024 through the OSPI grant management system.

House Bill 1956 (2024)

DOH, HCA, OSPI

State agencies have held weekly meetings with partners and have been building a network of internal and external partners to keep this work moving forward. The second Annual Tribal Opioid Summit was hosted in collaboration with the Spokane Tribal Nation in July 2024. The gathering was intended to further assist in addressing the epidemic of fentanyl and opioids in our communities. This collaboration has brought Tribal and state agencies together to strengthen current resources and expand into implementation of age-appropriate curricula that supports prevention. Collaboration with all stakeholders is vital to making an impact on our communities, and this partnership strengthens government-to-government relations.

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

The implementation lead will continue collaboration with Tribes and state agencies to strengthen current resources and expand into implementation of curricula that supports prevention and age-appropriate curricula. ONE offers monthly check-ins and office hours to provide technical assistance and support throughout the pilot project timeline. The partners identified in this work will work throughout the pilot project to ensure a final report is submitted to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by June 30, 2025, as directed.

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