
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5923

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wellman, Dhingra, Cleveland, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Lias, Nguyen, Nobles, Trudeau, Valdez, Warnick, and C. Wilson; by request of Office of the Governor)

READ FIRST TIME 01/17/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to fentanyl and other substance use prevention
2 education; and adding new sections to chapter 28A.170 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.170
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1)(a) By September 1, 2024, the office of the superintendent of
7 public instruction, in collaboration with educational service
8 districts, the health care authority, the department of health, and
9 the department of children, youth, and families, shall review
10 frequently used substance use prevention education materials and
11 resources provided to students and their families in middle and high
12 school and identify changes or additional materials and resources.

13 (b) Changes and additions must include information about the
14 potential lethality and other risks associated with the use of
15 fentanyl and other opioids and the limited immunity from prosecution
16 for people who seek medical assistance related to a drug overdose
17 pursuant to RCW 69.50.315, and behavioral health resources.

18 (2) By December 1, 2024, the office of the superintendent of
19 public instruction shall: (a) Make updated substance use prevention
20 education materials and resources available on the agency's public
21 website for use by school districts, educational service districts,

1 and community-based organizations working with school-aged youth; and
2 (b) complete revisions to the health and physical education K-12
3 learning standards that include knowledge and understanding related
4 to fentanyl, opioid, and other life-threatening drug use in grade
5 seven and grade nine.

6 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and
7 partners in subsection (1)(a) of this section shall consult with
8 Indian tribes for input on materials and resources as they are being
9 developed to ensure effectiveness for use in state-tribal education
10 compact schools and for tribal children, youth, and their families.

11 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
12 consultation with educational service districts, the health care
13 authority, the department of health, and the department of children,
14 youth, and families, shall review substance use prevention education
15 materials and resources at least once every other year to ensure they
16 contain the most current information and must be based on strategies
17 that have evidence of effectiveness to the greatest extent possible.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.170
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) All school districts that serve students in middle and high
21 school are strongly encouraged to work with their educational service
22 districts and substance abuse intervention specialists in RCW
23 28A.170.080 to provide fentanyl and other opioid prevention education
24 to students and invite students' families and guardians where
25 possible.

26 (2) Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, education to prevent
27 fentanyl and other opioid use included in health standards must be
28 provided once a year to all students in grade seven and grade nine,
29 with information on behavioral health resources as a component of
30 required health programs and schools are encouraged to provide
31 additional programming at their discretion. During the 2024-25 school
32 year, this education must be provided to as many seventh and ninth
33 grade students as possible.

34 (3) When providing health education related to substance use,
35 school districts and educational service districts must consider
36 using the substance use prevention education materials and resources
37 developed in section 1(1) of this act.

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