



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Healthy Schools Program Four-Year Outcome Evaluation Results

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

N/A

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Results from the evaluation of the Healthy Schools program provide substantial evidence that the program prevented 21% of behavioral health-related Emergency Department (ED) visits for ages 11-17 living in Bend-La Pine Schools zip codes, and further saved between \$812,000 and \$1.5 million in associated health care costs. The results also support the conclusion that Healthy Schools facilitated district-wide improvements to school services and positive changes toward targeted adolescent health outcomes such as suicide, mental health, substance use, bullying and violence, and sexual reproductive health.

Deschutes County Healthy Schools is an efficient and effective approach to improving adolescent health outcomes. The program works by embedding local public health agency staff into the district office and middle and high schools to serve as their designated coordinator for a data-driven process to improve the health of students. Public Health staff serve as coordinators to ensure that schools promote health and prevent student health issues from worsening or ever starting. These staff do not take over the roles of school staff, but guide staff to use more effective practices.

Schools are logical and efficient locations for public health interventions for youth. They are settings where learning is expected and new behaviors are learned and practiced daily. Children and adolescents spend nearly half of their waking hours at school for 13 years of their critical developmental years. More than 95% of youth ages 5-17 can be reached through schools.

The Deschutes County Healthy Schools program is a cost-sharing partnership between the County and Bend-La Pine Schools. More information is available at www.deschutes.org/healthyschools.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None

ATTENDANCE:

Aimee Snyder, Adolescent and School Health Supervisor

Jessica Jacks, Prevention and Health Promotion Program Manager