



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** November 1, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Presentation: Healthy Schools 2022-2023 Annual Report

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

None; information only.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The [Healthy Schools program](#) has released its [2022-23 Annual Report](#), a synopsis of its second year of operations involving nine Bend-La Pine schools. County staff and students and principals from the Bend-La Pine Schools district (BLS) will share results and highlights.

The Healthy Schools program embeds Deschutes County Public Health Specialists (PHSs) into the school system to provide students with essential public health services. PHSs serve as a coordinator to ensure that schools promote health and prevent student health issues from ever starting or worsening. PHSs do not take over the roles of school staff, but guide staff to use more effective practices.

Schools are a logical and efficient setting for public health interventions for youth. Children and adolescents spend nearly half of their waking hours at school for 13 years of their critical developmental life. In BLS, 50% of middle and high school students report feeling stressed, anxious, or depressed as a barrier to learning.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, about a quarter report their health or their family's health (28%) and their personal relationships (23%) as a barrier to learning.<sup>1</sup>

This high rate of youth mental health issues exceeds the capacity of treatment providers alone and requires partnerships between public health, schools, youth and family, health care, and other organizations to address the causes and link those in need to services. Healthy Schools programming enables these partnerships to support our students, families, teachers, and communities.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

None

**ATTENDANCE:**

Jessica Jacks, Deschutes County, Prevention and Health Promotion Program Manager

Aimee Snyder, Deschutes County, Prevention and Health Promotion Supervisor

Scott Olszewski, Principal, La Pine High School

Chris Reese, Principal, Bend High School

<sup>1</sup> YouthTruth Student Survey (2023). Bend-La Pine Schools Middle and High School Student Survey Data Reports.