



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Healthy Schools 2023-24 Annual Report

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

N/A; update only.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The [Healthy Schools program](#) has released its 2023-24 Annual Report, a synopsis of its third year of operations in Bend-La Pine Schools (BLS). The 2023-24 school year was the program's first year of full implementation which includes all 14 secondary schools. County staff and BLS students will share results and highlights.

The [Healthy Schools program](#) embeds Deschutes County Public Health Specialists (PHSs) into the school system to provide schools with essential public health services. PHSs work to ensure that schools promote health and prevent student health issues from beginning 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.¹ Additionally, about a quarter report their health or family's health (28%) and their personal relationships (23%) as a barrier to learning.¹

This high rate of youth mental health issues exceeds the capacity of available treatment providers 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 provides this important work to support communities, students, families, teachers, and schools.

The 2023-24 Annual Report will be available online starting December 3rd, 2024 at www.deschutes.org/healthyschools

BUDGET IMPACTS:

n/a

ATTENDANCE:

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

Aimee Snyder, Deschutes County, Prevention and Health Promotion Supervisor

Ella Bacigalupi, Bend-La Pine Schools, Bend Senior High Student

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