

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS On a continuum from experimental use to tragic fatal overdose, substance use by our youth is a complex reality. And while most of our youth do not use substances of abuse, for some, peer influences, social norms, their genetics and other risk factors conspire to create a profile that makes it difficult for them to escape.

WHEREAS According to the 2023 Issaquah School District Healthy Youth Survey, 12th graders reported Past 30-day use, or what is considered consistent use, at the following rates:

- Past 30-day use of vaping products, 8%,
- Past 30-day use of alcohol, 13%,
- Past 30-day use of cannabis, 9%, and
- Past 30-day use of alcohol while using cannabis, 3%

WHEREAS Many of our young people do not develop the skills needed to productively manage adolescent development substance free; and

WHEREAS Substance use can and does negatively impact the development and potential of our youth to succeed; and

WHEREAS Substance use prevention has a greater impact than later intervention by changing a child's early life path away from maladaptive solutions and towards positive behaviors and productivity; and

WHEREAS Substance use prevention is an extremely cost-effective model in comparison to later high utilization interventions. A cost-benefit analysis by the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) in October 2021 indicates a savings anywhere from \$13 to \$26.00 for every \$1.00 spent on effective school-based programming; and

WHEREAS The benefits of increasing protective factors while reducing risk factors and engaging social-emotional learning provides a universal benefit to all our youth; and

WHEREAS By stopping drug use before it starts, we can prevent the disease of addiction and create stronger neighborhoods in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Issaquah School Board, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2024 as

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.

in the Issaquah School District

We encourage all families, students, administrators, teachers and staff to join us in promoting healthy choices by youth and to take part in preventing substance use among young people.