



# Oregon Recovery High Schools

## FAQ: 2024

### Purpose

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about HB 2767 (2023), which is intended to provide oversight and funding for Oregon Recovery Schools, not to be confused with *credit recovery* programs. Oregon Recovery Schools provide education and support for students in recovery from substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges.

### Overview of House Bill (HB) 2767

HB 2767 established a limited number of Recovery Schools in Oregon. These schools, under an agreement with the Department of Education, will provide students with a specialized high school education experience, tailored to meet the needs of students with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges.

### What is the purpose of Oregon Recovery Schools?

- To deliver high-quality education that leads to an Oregon high school diploma.
- To support students in recovery from substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges by providing mental health support in a safe, supportive environment to maintain abstinence and stay in recovery.

### How do Oregon Recovery Schools support students with substance use and co-occurring mental health challenges?

Oregon Recovery schools support students with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges by aligning with the following guiding principles:

- **Creating a Safe and Supportive Environment:** Oregon Recovery Schools will provide a safe and supportive environment where enrolled students can focus on their recovery from substance use and pursue a traditional high school diploma.
- **Ensuring Academic Continuity:** Oregon Recovery Schools will ensure that students continue an educational path that leads to graduation, while receiving the necessary support, differentiated instruction and resources needed to address their substance use and co-occurring behavioral health care needs.



- **Providing Comprehensive Substance Use and Behavioral Health Related Services:** Oregon Recovery Schools will provide a comprehensive approach to recovery support, integrating substance use education, mental and behavioral health supports, and coping skills development into academic and SEL coursework.
- **Establishing and Maintaining Peer Supports and Forging a Sustainable Sense of Community:** Oregon Recovery Schools will provide a sense of community and belonging for students who are in recovery. These communities are small by design and incorporate peer support to enhance bonds between students and enable staff to provide social emotional learning opportunities and support recovery practices for students to live in recovery with their peers.
- **Empowering Long-Term Recovery:** By addressing substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges early in adolescence, Oregon Recovery Schools help students develop the skills, resources, and support networks they need to maintain long-term recovery and lead healthy, fulfilling lives beyond high school.

## What is the difference between an Oregon Recovery School and a credit recovery program?

Recovery high schools and credit recovery programs serve different purposes and focus on distinct populations of students:

- **Recovery High School:** The primary purpose of a recovery high school is to provide a supportive environment for students with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health education, integrating academic coursework with substance use education, mental health counseling, and support services aimed at fostering long-term recovery and academic success. The focus is on addressing the underlying issues contributing to substance use and co-occurring behavioral health challenges while supporting academic achievement, which leads to graduation.
- **Credit Recovery Program:** Credit recovery programs are designed to help students who have fallen behind in course credits to catch up and graduate on time. They are open to any student who needs to make up credits to meet graduation requirements and typically focus solely on providing students with the opportunity to earn the credits needed for graduation.

## Who can open an Oregon Recovery School?

- Oregon School Districts, Oregon Education Service Districts (ESDs), and Oregon public charters are eligible to apply and operate an Oregon recovery school.
- Oregon Recovery Schools are established by contract with ODE and must be applied for through a Request for Application (RFA) process.



## **What is the process and timeline to apply?**

- Information and guidance sessions will be held each year for interested applicants. Registration links can be found on our webpage.
- This FAQ will be updated as needed.
- The 2025 RFA is anticipated to open in January of 2025.
- The deadline for application submission will be 30-45 days from release.
- No more than three (3) contracts will be offered during the 2025-2027 biennium.

## **If my school district/ESD/charter school is interested in applying, what should we be working on right now?**

- Research and review data around substance use and co-occurring behavioral health needs among teens in your community.
- Have discussions with your special education and alternative education departments in order to determine the need.
- Cultivate partnerships with community providers, drug and alcohol programs, mental health agencies, youth organizations, and culturally specific organizations. Recovery high schools typically offer an extended day program with extracurricular activities for youth to promote and support recovery in the community.
- Begin looking for an appropriate site for a recovery high school. It is required that an Oregon Recovery School be in a separate location from other high schools in the community.
- Review the information provided on the [ODE Recovery Schools](#) webpage.

## **How are Oregon Recovery Schools funded?**

The new law provides a unique funding structure to include a high school education experience and to meet graduation requirements, provide special education services, substance use supports and behavioral health services.

- State funding allows for the opening up to three (3) Oregon Recovery Schools per biennium, with a maximum of nine (9) recovery high schools throughout Oregon, by July 2029.
- Oregon Recovery Schools will be funded with sufficient base funding in addition to a per student ADM. Funding will be separate from regular school district State School Fund (SSF) grants and will combine some SSF and Statewide Education Initiative Account (SEIA) funds.
- Special education funding will be available to school districts, charters and ESDs within the contract with ODE through General Funds.



### **Are Oregon Recovery Schools required to be accredited?**

Yes. All Recovery Schools in Oregon are required to be accredited by the Association of Recovery Schools (ARS). Typically, schools seek accreditation after their third year of operation. It will be a requirement for ongoing operation to be accredited by the fifth year of operation and must maintain accreditation status in subsequent years.

### **Where can I learn more about recovery high schools?**

- [Oregon Department of Education : Recovery Schools](#)
- [Association of Recovery Schools](#)

### **What if I have more questions?**

- For additional questions on these or other topics, please email: [ode.recoveryschools@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ode.recoveryschools@ode.oregon.gov)