

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS Substance use by young people exists on a spectrum from experimentation to life-threatening overdose. While many of our youth abstain, a combination of peer pressure, social expectations, family history, environmental factors, and genetics can place some young people at greater risk;
- WHEREAS According to the 2023 Issaquah School District Healthy Youth Survey, 12th graders reported the following rates of past 30-day use, which is considered consistent use:
- Vaping products: 8%
 - Alcohol: 13%
 - Cannabis: 9%
 - Combined alcohol and cannabis: 3%
- WHEREAS National trends confirm both progress and ongoing concern. The 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reports that about 6.6% of youth ages 12–17 used alcohol in the past month, while the 2024 Monitoring the Future Survey found that 21% of 12th graders had vaped nicotine in the past year;
- WHEREAS Many of our young people develop the resilience and skills to navigate adolescence substance-free, and prevention efforts can strengthen these protective factors;
- WHEREAS Prevention has a greater long-term impact than later intervention by redirecting early risk into healthy behaviors, educational success, and lifelong productivity;
- WHEREAS Prevention is also highly cost-effective: research by the National Institute on Drug Abuse demonstrates that every \$1 invested in proven prevention programs can save as much as \$10 or more in later treatment, healthcare, and criminal justice costs;
- WHEREAS Strengthening protective factors—such as family engagement, school connectedness, positive peer relationships, and social-emotional learning—while reducing risk factors benefits all youth and contributes to safer, healthier communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Issaquah School Board, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2025 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.