

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
August 21, 2019

SUBJECT: New Rule 6A-1.094122, Substance Use and Abuse Health Education

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1001.02(2)(n), 1003.42(2), F.S.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This new rule establishes procedures for school districts to plan and document delivery of required instruction related to substance use and abuse prevention education for grades K-12 students.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, one person dies every 12.5 minutes from an opioid overdose. In addition, Dr. Adams declared youth vaping as an epidemic of great concern. Statistics from 2012-2018 in Florida indicate electronic vaping increased among 11-17 year olds over 500%.

Quality substance abuse and use prevention education has been identified as a high priority by Florida Governor DeSantis, First Lady DeSantis and the Legislature. Currently, health education requirements include substance use and abuse education. However, there are no means of verification that instruction is taking place.

The three most prevalently used substances among Florida middle and high school students are alcohol, electronic vape products, and marijuana. Florida Youth Survey data documents that in 2017, 7.8% of middle school and 27% of high school students report using alcohol in the last 30 days. In 2018, 7.8% of middle school and 24.8% of high school students report vaping in the last 30 days. Also in 2018, 3.7% of middle school and 16.3% of high school students report using marijuana in the last 30 days.

Understanding and avoiding hazardous substances are key to the well-being of our youth. Education on the prevention of substance use and abuse provides the knowledge, tools, and skills to help prevent drug addiction.

This rule would establish a mechanism to ensure Florida K-12 students are receiving substance use and abuse education.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-1.094122, F.A.C.

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