

FINAL BILL REPORT

E2SHB 1956

C 201 L 24
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Addressing fentanyl and other substance use prevention education.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Leavitt, Griffey, Ryu, Couture, Ramel, Slatter, Reed, Ormsby, Barnard, Callan, Timmons, Kloba, Cheney, Doglio, Paul, Berg, Lekanoff, Reeves, Riccelli, Wylie, Hackney, Pollet and Shavers; by request of Office of the Governor).

House Committee on Education

House Committee on Appropriations

Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

Opioids.

Opioids are a class of drugs that reduce the perception of pain and have other effects, for example drowsiness, confusion, and euphoria. Natural opioids, like morphine and codeine, are extracted from the poppy plant. Synthetic opioids are artificially created substances that act on the same brain receptors as natural opioids. Some synthetic opioids, like methadone and fentanyl, are approved for medical use, but must be prescribed by an authorized health care provider. Some synthetic opioids are illicitly produced and distributed.

Substance Use Awareness Information.

The Department of Health (DOH) is required to post on its website information about substance use trends, overdose symptoms and response, and the secure storage of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. Each school district, charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and educational service district (ESD) must make the DOH substance use information accessible to students, families, and other interested persons through internet-based communications at least quarterly.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is required, through the biennial budget, to conduct

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various opioid awareness campaigns for various purposes, including harm reduction, overdose prevention, secondary prevention, and youth education. The HCA is required to consult with the DOH when conducting these public awareness efforts.

State Health Learning Standards.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for developing and revising the state learning standards that identify the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be able to do based on four basic education learning goals established by the Legislature. There are learning standards available in 14 content areas, including health. The health education learning standards, which were last updated in 2016, are organized by six core ideas. One of the core ideas, for which grade level outcomes are specified, is substance use and abuse prevention.

Summary:

Drug Overdose Prevention and Awareness Campaign.

The Department of Health (DOH) must develop, implement, and maintain a statewide drug overdose prevention and awareness campaign to address the drug overdose epidemic. The campaign must educate the public about the dangers of methamphetamines and opioids, including fentanyl, and the harms caused by drug use. The campaign must include outreach to both youth and adults aimed at preventing substance use and overdose deaths.

The DOH, in consultation with the Health Care Authority (HCA), may also include messaging focused on substance use disorder and overdose death prevention, resources for addiction treatment and services, and information on immunity for people who seek medical assistance in a drug overdose situation.

The 2024 and 2025 campaigns must focus on increasing the awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, including the high possibility that other drugs are contaminated with synthetic opioids and that even trace amounts of synthetic opioids can be lethal.

The DOH must submit annual reports to the Legislature on the content and distribution of the statewide drug overdose prevention and awareness campaign. The report must include a summary of the messages distributed during the campaign, the mediums through which the campaign was operated, and data on how many individuals received information through the campaign. The DOH must also identify measurable benchmarks to determine the effectiveness of the campaign and recommend whether the campaign should continue and if any changes should be made to the campaign.

School and Classroom Substance Use Prevention and Awareness Materials.

Through July 1, 2026, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) must collaborate with the DOH, the HCA, other state agencies, and educational service districts (ESDs) to develop school and classroom materials on the lethality of fentanyl and other

opioids in coordination with the statewide drug overdose prevention and awareness campaign. The OSPI must make these materials available to school districts and public schools.

By December 1, 2025, the OSPI must adjust the state health and physical education learning standards for middle and high school students to add opioids to the list of drugs included in drug-related education and update the school and classroom materials described above to reflect the adjusted learning standards. The OSPI must also make these materials available to school districts and public schools.

On an ongoing basis, the OSPI must collaborate with the DOH, the HCA, other state agencies, and ESDs to develop age-appropriate substance use prevention and awareness materials for school and classroom uses. These materials must be periodically updated to align with substance use prevention and awareness campaigns implemented by the DOH and the HCA. The OSPI must actively distribute the materials to school districts, public schools, educational service districts, and community-based organizations that provide extended learning opportunities, and strongly encourage the incorporation of age-appropriate materials in classrooms, as well as in family and community communications.

Short Title.

This act may be known and cited as the Lucas Petty Act.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	0	
Senate	46	0	(Senate amended)
House	96	0	(House concurred)

Effective: March 19, 2024