

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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Impacts of Cannabis legislation to student health, academics and safety:

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With the passage of Proposition 64, the recreational use of marijuana for adults over the age of 21 is now legal. Even with this change, marijuana is still a regulated drug, and legalization will make it more difficult to control its impact on schools. Within Woodland Joint Unified School District (WJUSD), a number of interventions are in place to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for our community. These efforts have had a positive effect on the number of suspensions and expulsions for illicit drug use. Between 2012 and 2017, we have decreased illicit drug use suspensions by approximately 100 hundred incidences (see Table A). We have also maintained a low level of expulsions for drug related offenses. Although this is a positive outcome for our community, we are also seeing an increase in the number of youth utilizing interventions for alcohol/ drug use (pre-discipline) and anticipate an increased impact with the increased availability of cannabis products.

Table A: WJUSD Suspension Incidents Related to Drug Use

Year	Suspensions	Expulsions
2012-13	232	2
2013-14	210	2
2014-15	167	0
2015-16	160	2
2016-17	166	1

The impact of drug use is seen on an academic, social-emotional, behavioral, and health level. We would like to propose that a portion of any tax revenue from cannabis-related business be given to WJUSD and earmarked for drug/alcohol prevention and intervention at our middle and high schools. As the need for interventions increases, our goal is to implement even more effective supports at a K-13 level. Examples of these interventions include individual and group counseling, prevention presentations; family prevention nights; and district-wide campaigns to reduce drug-use.

With the passage of Proposition 64, we expect our student consumption of cannabis to continue to rise as students find it easier to access cannabis products. A certain percentage of these students will require counseling and treatment to deal with their addiction and its impact on education. Providing some of the revenue to schools for prevention and intervention efforts will allow the cannabis industry to provide a benefit to the community and to show that they are responsible neighbors.

In order to provide services to each of our secondary schools, we are seeking \$400,000. With these funds, we plan to add 2 counselors to our high schools, 1 social worker, and 1 school nurse. We feel these additions would address the academic, social-emotional, and health needs that are certain to arise with increase cannabis access.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss further and we look forward to working with Yolo County to ensure that schools are safe and healthy places for our students.

Geovanni Linares
Executive Director, Student Support Services
Woodland Joint Unified School District