

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

The mission of the Ellensburg Healthy Youth Coalition is to prevent and reduce substance use and other problem behaviors in the community.



Coalition Coordinator
Kortney Durand

(509) 925-8180
1203 E Capitol Ave,
Ellensburg, WA 98926
kortney.durandpatnode
@esd401.org

Ellensburg Healthy Youth Coalition

Ellensburg, Washington



About the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI)

CPWI is a partnership of state agencies, counties, schools and local prevention coalitions supporting communities in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse and its negative consequences. CPWI priorities include reducing underage drinking, marijuana use and opioid misuse/abuse among middle and high school aged youth. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

About the Coalition: Communities & Schools Working Together

The Ellensburg Healthy Youth Coalition was founded in 2018. Members represent local business, criminal justice, faith-based organizations, health care, higher education, law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, public health, public safety, secondary education, social services, substance abuse providers, volunteers, youth, and youth serving sectors.

About Our Community

Compared to students in Washington State and Kittitas County, students in the Ellensburg School District (ESD) are more likely to experience good family management, family rewards for prosocial involvement, parental attitudes unfavorable toward drug use, and academic success. However, they are also more likely to use tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs; experience depression, attempt suicide and incur death; skip school; fight, carry guns/weapons; and be arrested for alcohol and drug law violations.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

Coalition goals include improving the social skills of ESD students, reducing the low commitment to school, and improving community opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement; reducing the availability of drugs in Ellensburg; and reducing the laws and norms in Ellensburg that are favorable to drug use. Coalition strategies are to:

- Teach **Second Step** (K-8) and **Positive Action** (9-12) in the Ellensburg School District: Promotes and encourages interpersonal cooperation, and provides a tool kit of options endorsing positive behavior
- Provide the opportunity to attend **Curriculum Based Support Groups** for mental health therapy
- Promote **Drug Take Back Day** Disposal of unused or expired Rx drugs twice per year
- Promote **Starts with One**: Educates about dangers of Rx drug misuse and importance of safe storage, use, and disposal
- Distribute **Medication Lock Boxes** For safe storage of Rx drugs for students and families in the community
- Advocate for an increase of 1/10 of 1% Sales Tax: To fund behavioral health services in Kittitas County

The Coalition will measure change in social competence/decision making skills, school connections, mentee quality of match, Rx drug disposal, Rx safe storage, and behavioral health workforce.



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Other Contacts

Student Assistance Program
Specialist
ESD 105
Breanna Smith, CPD
(509) 895-1584
Breanne.smith@esd401.org



Coalition Director
Jared Bronkema
(509) 925-8181
Jared.bronkema@esd401.org

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For more information
about CPWI visit
www.TheAthenaForum.org