



Jim Schlachter, Superintendent

Gresham-Barlow School District No. 10Jt

1331 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, OR 97030-3825
www.gresham.k12.or.us

Phone: (503) 261-4550
Fax: (503) 661-1589

September 25, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

With the recent legalization of marijuana in Oregon, we want to inform you of serious health and legal matters, including state laws and district policies that affect students and adults on school property.

Like alcohol, the law requires a person to be 21 years of age to purchase marijuana in Oregon. With the increase in media attention, including social media, and the common assumption that marijuana use is safe for everyone, we are concerned that once recreational sales are available in October, just like alcohol, there will be greater access by our youth.

We want our school community to know that the law prohibits anyone, adult or student, from possessing any form of marijuana on or within 1,000 feet of any school campus, and any district or school sponsored event. Violations of District Policy JFCG will result in disciplinary measures and possible notification to legal authorities.

Because children's brains are still developing, it's important to know the facts about the effects of marijuana on children and teens. According to a recent study by the Lancet Psychiatry and published in the Washington Post, teenagers who smoke marijuana daily are more than 60 percent less likely to complete high school than those who never use. They're also 60 percent less likely to graduate college and seven times more likely to attempt suicide.

For additional information and resources on substance use by teens, including parenting tips, addiction screening, research and helpful articles visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse at www.drugabuse.gov. Colorado, the first state to legalize recreational use of marijuana also has several helpful resources, including [Marijuana: What Parents Need to Know](#).

Please talk to your child and reinforce the dangers and potential consequences of substances such as alcohol, marijuana and marijuana edibles. It is important to know that products containing marijuana are now being packaged like common snack foods, such as cookies and candy. You are encouraged to help your child to distinguish between these marijuana edibles and other common snack foods. If you are worried about your child or have additional questions about marijuana or other substance related issues, please contact your family physician, your student's school counselor, or school administrator.

Sincerely,

James K. Hiu
Deputy Superintendent

Teresa Ketelsen
Deputy Superintendent