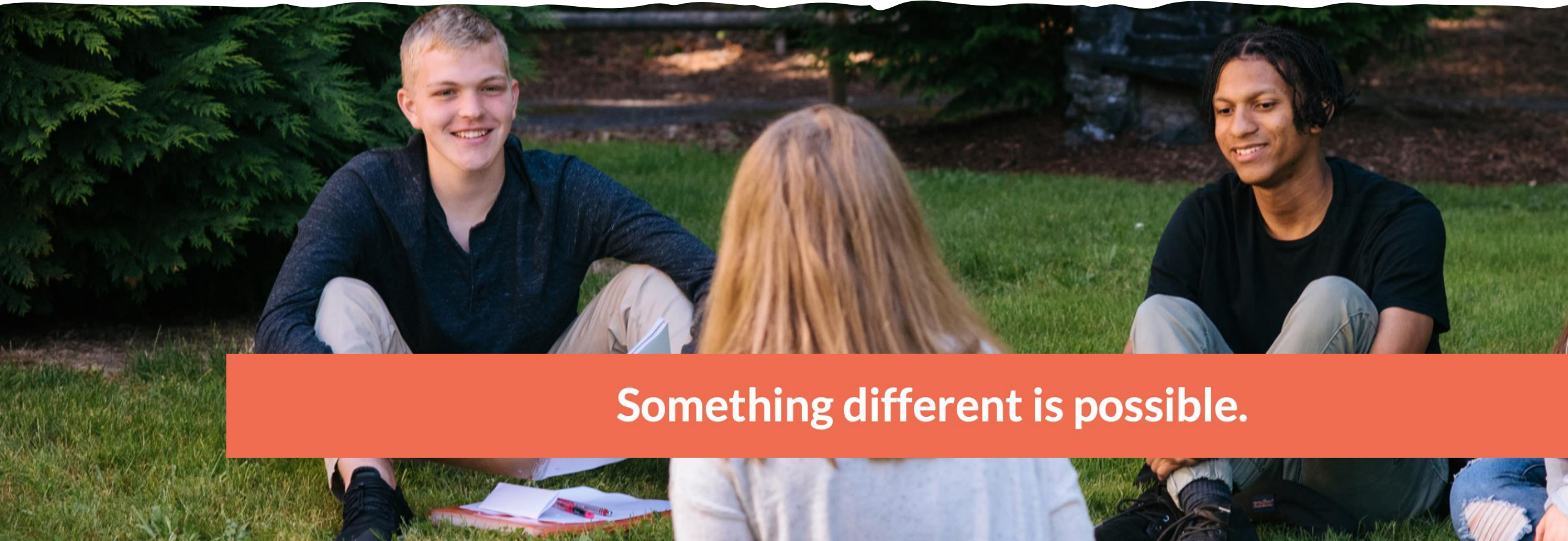




# Supporting Adolescents in Early Recovery: The Recovery High School Model

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# Harmony Academy, est. 2019



Something different is possible.

**Total Students Enrolled  
Since 2019: 150**

**2022-23 Enrollment: 56**

**Counties Served:**  
Clackamas, Multnomah,  
Washington

**Districts Served: 18**

**Graduating Classes:**  
2019-2023



# What is a Recovery High School?

[www.recoveryschools.org](http://www.recoveryschools.org)

According to the Association of Recovery Schools, founded in 2002, the primary purpose of a recovery high school is to educate students in recovery from substance use or co-occurring disorders. The intention of a recovery high school is for students enrolled to be in recovery and working an abstinence focused program of recovery from substance use or co-occurring disorders as determined by the student and the School. Each school meets state requirements for awarding a secondary school diploma. Recovery high schools are also available to any student in recovery who meets state or district eligibility requirements for attendance, which means students do not have to go through a particular treatment program to enroll, and the schools are not simply the academic component of a primary or extended-care treatment facility or therapeutic boarding school.



# Our Amazing Staff

Administration

Academic Team

Recovery Team

Student Supports

Office Team

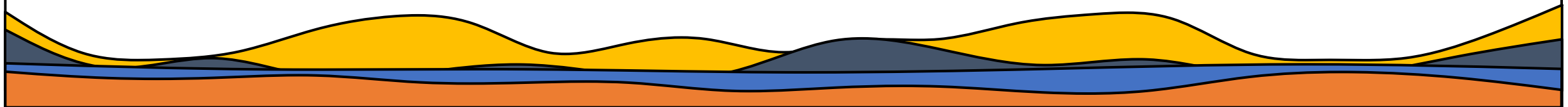
# Student Demographics

Variable	N	N = 387 <sup>1</sup>
Age	372	16.32 (1.39)
Race and ethnicity in four categories	364	
Black non-Hispanic		35 (9.6%)
Hispanic		82 (23%)
Other non-Hispanic		34 (9.3%)
White non-Hispanic		213 (59%)
Gender	378	
Female		171 (45%)
Male		178 (47%)
Other		29 (7.7%)
GAIN-SS Probability of Any Disorder / Need for Services	369	
High Probability of Disorder or Problem		369 (100%)
Days enrolled in the recovery high school	349	177 (247)
In RHS for 90 or more days	349	168 (48%)
Have you used any mood or mind altering substances including alcohol in the last 90 days?	378	
No		184 (49%)
Yes		194 (51%)
Personal Recovery Capital Total Score (0–25)	316	14.29 (4.23)
Social Recovery Capital Total Score (0–25)	302	15.04 (3.84)
Community Recovery Capital Total Score (0–45)	311	11.35 (5.93)
Positive Youth Development - Total Score (0–5)	381	3.53 (0.49)

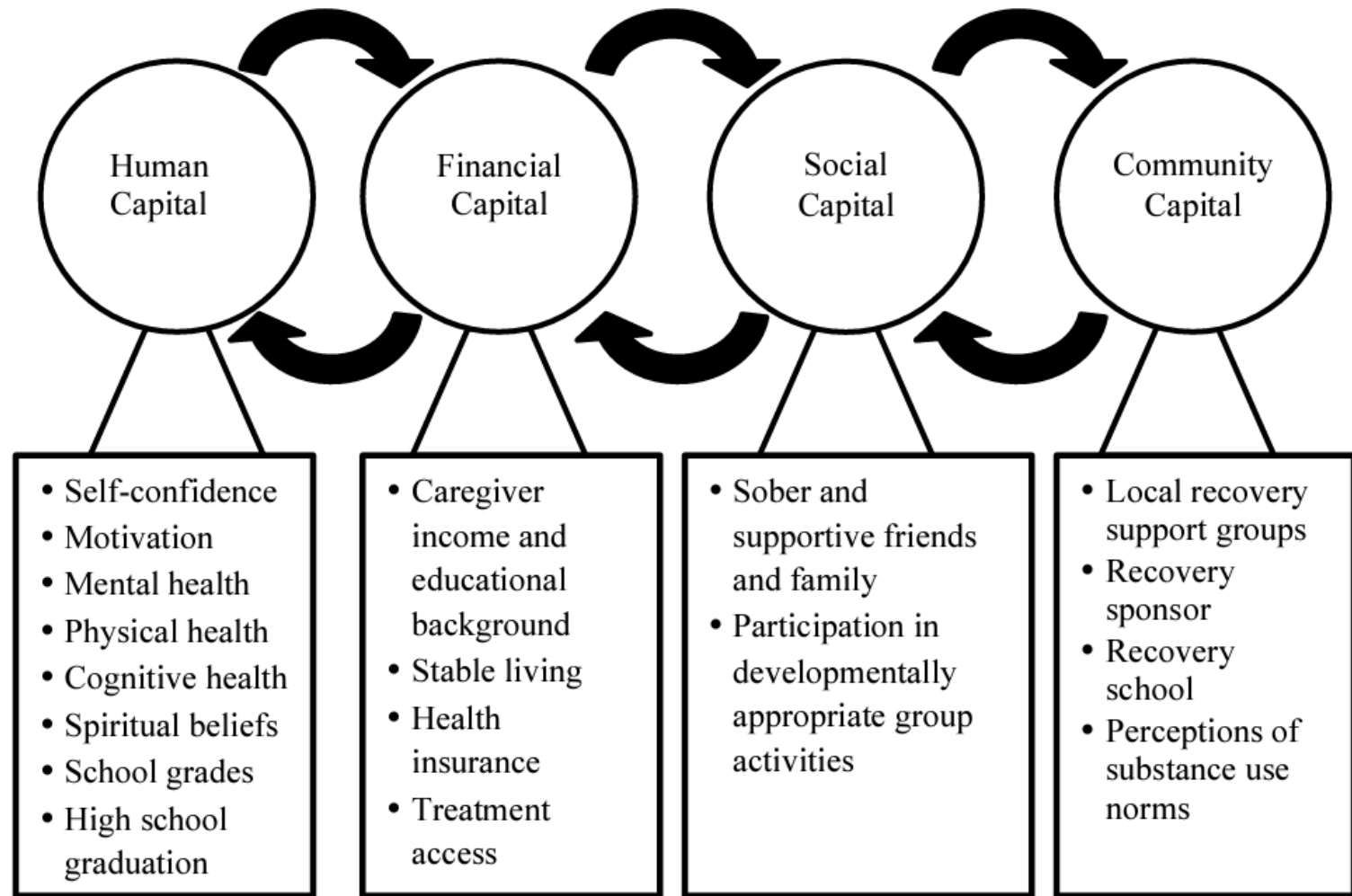
<sup>1</sup>Mean (SD); n (%)

# What is your drug of choice (select all that apply)?

Cannabis	256 (66%)
Alcohol	154 (40%)
Hallucinogen (e.g., LSD, shrooms)	107 (28%)
Whatever is available	91 (24%)
Benzos (e.g., Xanax, Valium)	78 (20%)
Prescription pain pill (e.g., Oxycodone, hydrocodone)	57 (15%)
Cocaine powder	53 (14%)
Over the counter medication (e.g., Triple Cs, cough medicine, Benadryl)	50 (13%)
Medication for ADHD (e.g., Adderall, Vyvanse, Ritalin)	46 (12%)
Fentanyl	40 (10%)
Pressed pills (unspecified contents)	38 (9.8%)
Methamphetamines (Meth)	32 (8.3%)
Other substance	29 (7.5%)
Heroin	15 (3.9%)
Crack cocaine	14 (3.6%)
Medication for opiate use disorder (e.g., Methadone, Subutex, Soboxone)	9 (2.3%)



# Adolescent Recovery Capital



**Figure 1.** Adolescent Model of Recovery Capital

Note. The black arrows represent *growth capital*, the growth generated through synergy of the other capital dimensions.



**1.4 Community Partnerships:** The school has established collaborative partnerships with local schools, treatment centers, and other community resources to create a coordinated system of support.

*Evidence: List of collaborations, community resources, school and treatment partners, MOUs with collaborators, org chart for system of support, interviews and focus groups*

- A. The school has collaborative and meaningful partnerships with local schools.
- B. The school has collaborative and meaningful partnerships with local treatment centers and mental health providers.
- C. The school has established formal agreements with collaborative partners as appropriate.
- D. Collaborative partners provide resources.
- E. Local resources are leveraged to provide the best possible services for students.
- F. The school is an equitable and trusted community partner and offers services to the local area, inclusive of diverse and underrepresented communities.





## Alternative Peer Groups (APGs)

An Alternative Peer Group (APG) is a community-based, family-centered, professionally staffed, positive peer support program that offers prosocial activities, counseling, and case-management for adolescents who struggle with substance use disorders or self-destructive behaviors

## YOUTH ADDICTION CARE SYSTEM IN OREGON

**Residential treatment beds** for ages 12-17:

December 2021: **33**

December 2022: **31**

Adolescents in Oregon in 2020: **299,454**

Youth detox facilities: **0**

Youth outpatient providers: **12**

\*Youth inpatient providers: **4**

*(Many providers have just 1 or 2 FTE dedicated to youth services)*

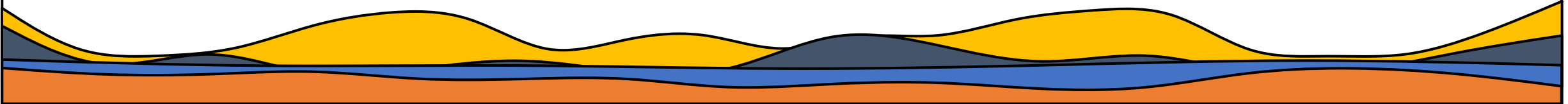
Youth MAT providers as part of an Opioid Treatment Program: **1**,  
Great Circle Recovery

Number of recovery high schools: **1**, Harmony Academy

\*\*Est. certified alcohol and drug counselors working with  
schools: **131**

\*\*CADC to secondary school student ratio: **1 to 2,400**

Percentage of prevention specialists needed to fill gap: **94%**





Youth and young adults have historically been left out of the conversation and planning for services. For youth and young adults who use drugs in the United States, services have not recognized their unique developmental needs. SAMHSA confirms that youth and young adults who use substances need interventions that address them as whole people with different developmental needs than adults.



# We believe young people...

- are experts on their own lives.
- need brave spaces where they are seen, known, loved.
- need strong, consistent adults to show up for them.
- need spaces where they can express and explore their identities.
- need relaxing, non-institutional-feeling spaces.
- can build their own unique culture when given healthy parameters.
- recover in community.

Adolescents of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds vary in risk factors, patterns, rates, and consequences of substance use.



# Who Are Harmony Students?

Young people aged 14-21  
who want to finish high  
school, build a community  
of healthy peers, and work  
on their recovery!







# To Support Young People...

- Integrate young people into all aspects of program design.
- Create a brave space for young people to develop identities and take risks.
- Provide ongoing training to staff specific to the unique needs of youth
- Employ staff who are authentic, at ease, and appreciate adolescents.
- Make sure youth and young adults can access in-person services whenever possible! It's so much better.
- Engage youth and young adults through fun activities and the arts.
- Don't pathologize drug use or behaviors.
- Assist young people in building a support network and an alternative group of healthy peers so they can keep going!



# HB 2767

## EXPANDING + SUPPORTING RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS

**Chief Sponsors:** Representative Walters; Senator Patterson; Representative Bowman.  
**Regular Sponsors:** Representatives McLain and Reynolds; Senators Dembrow, Gelser Blouin, Sollman and Wagner.

## RECOVERY SCHOOL MODEL

Recovery high schools **provide a safe, supportive education for youth in recovery from substance use disorder and other co-occurring conditions.** There is currently one recovery high school in Oregon, [Harmony Academy](#), which provides academic guidance, holistic recovery support, comprehensive case management and resource coordination, family and peer support, and access to a free, high-quality public education provided by licensed teachers and administrators — each with their own personal connection to addiction and recovery.

## THE PATH FORWARD

HB 2767 will allow eligible, qualified recovery high schools to become **ODE-designated educational entities** moving forward. This framework will ensure that each new recovery school operates in accordance with national best practices and that there is not unnecessary duplication of these services. With unified responsibility for recovery high schools at ODE, these students will have access to their existing State School Fund (SSF) allocation, but also to funding from the **Statewide Education Initiatives Account (SEIA)**. With access to this growing account, and the opportunity to collaborate funding with other state agencies, ODE will have the resources it needs to cover the cost differentials associated with recovery students. To help with the administrative and technical responsibilities, HB 2767 also establishes an ODE-appointed advisory committee which will report on the initial pilot of contracted recovery school by January 1, 2028.

# To Learn More...

**Call and/or schedule a visit to Harmony:**

503-496-3929

[office@harmony.k12.or.us](mailto:office@harmony.k12.or.us)

**Invite Students to Speak:**

503-496-3929

[dmathis@harmony.k12.or.us](mailto:dmathis@harmony.k12.or.us)

ARS Website: [recoveryschools.org](http://recoveryschools.org)

Harmony Website: [harmonyacademyrhs.org](http://harmonyacademyrhs.org)



