



colorado school of public health

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

January 11, 2021

Dear Colorado School Administrators:

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) and Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) would like to inform you of their support for an excellent opportunity to receive, at no charge, one year of the Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST) High School program for all of your 9th graders. The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at the University of Colorado Boulder is offering LST High School to schools across Colorado in order to further evaluate this program. CSPV has been replicating evidence-based programs throughout the country for over two decades.

This funding opportunity comes at a critical time when COVID-19 has impacted budgets and demanded social-emotional competencies and healthy coping strategies. It is also an opportunity to address the use of substances like marijuana, alcohol, and e-cigarettes among youth. According to the 2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, 21% of high school students used marijuana, 30% used alcohol, and 25% used e-vapor products in the past 30 days. With a focus on healthy decision-making, social-emotional competencies, and guidance on how to integrate vaping topics into relevant lessons, the LST High School program helps to build positive self-management and social skills, while addressing drug use and other risk-taking behaviors in late adolescence.

LST High School is built upon the LST Middle School program, which is recognized as having the highest evidence base to improve youth behavioral health by various government and private agencies, including the *Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development* registry.

We know this is a challenging time and urge you to take advantage of this opportunity. For more details about this initiative, including the brief application, please visit <https://cspv.colorado.edu/what-we-do/initiatives/lst-grant/application/> Contact Diane Ballard (diane.ballard@colorado.edu | 303-735-4164) with questions.

Sincerely,



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