

Dear Principal,

Thank you for your interest in this grant to implement the Botvin *LifeSkills Training* (LST) High School program. The LST High School Program is a single-year curriculum implemented in either grade 9 or 10 that has been shown to reduce adolescents' substance use, violence, and other high-risk behaviors. This opportunity through the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at the University of Colorado Boulder is described in detail, including key components of the LST model that have helped make the program effective, as well as what the school(s) in your district will be committing to if selected for participation in the grant beginning in Fall 2022. Of the selected schools, one-half will receive the curriculum and support beginning in Fall 2022, and the other half will receive the curriculum and support beginning in Fall 2024. All selected schools will participate in an evaluation of the LST High School program, which will consist of in-class surveys administered by CSPV in Fall 2022, December 2022, Fall 2023, and Fall 2024.

Please carefully consider if your school will be able to fully comply with these specifications. If so, please sign this letter and submit with the grant application. By signing this letter, you pledge your support to adhere to the fidelity and integrity of the LST model.

Timeline

The grant will provide curriculum materials, training, and technical assistance for one year of LST implementation. The LST High School program is a single-year curriculum that will be implemented in grade 9 during the fall. Students in the 9th grade will receive 10 LST sessions. As a universal prevention program, it is designed to be implemented with all or nearly all students in the 9th grade.

Teachers

A successful replication of LST in your school is contingent on following the LST model and teaching all lessons in their entirety. Instructors attend a one-day initial training workshop prior to implementation, which describes the LST program in detail and fosters familiarity with the curriculum. All LST High School teachers will be trained. Additionally, a certified LST trainer will be available for technical assistance/consulting throughout the project via telephone, video conference, email, or on-site visits.

Teacher stipends will be paid for training workshops held during the summer, and reimbursement for substitutes will be provided by the grant for training workshops conducted during the school year. Assistance in approving training workshops and ensuring that teachers do not have competing training to attend during the scheduled LST workshops is greatly appreciated.

Teacher Feedback Surveys are completed by LST instructors after teaching one cycle of LST, and teachers will receive a \$30 gift card for survey completion. These online surveys further enhance CSPV's ability to assess experiences with the implementation process.

Classroom Observations

CSPV monitors the replication process to assess the degree that implementation is occurring with fidelity and integrity to the LST model through hiring local individuals to observe LST classroom sessions and use curriculum-specific checklists. Observers are a neutral presence in the classroom and do not provide feedback to instructors. Because observers make unannounced visits, LST instructors should follow the implementation schedule provided to CSPV and/or notify observers when changes have been made to the schedule.

Observers conduct three observations of each teacher implementing the curriculum. In sites that consist of a large number of schools and/or teachers, a reduced number of classroom observations may be conducted. CSPV appreciates the district's cooperation with the completion of classroom observations.

Meetings

After the application has been submitted, a CSPV representative conducts a “feasibility visit” to describe the elements of LST, answer questions, review implementation plans, and determine final program eligibility. It is important that this meeting is attended by all those with responsibility for the adoption and oversight of LST, which helps to build an early platform of support for the program. School principals are requested to attend this meeting along with a teacher representative from each school, the designated Site Coordinator, and, schedule permitting, the Superintendent.

Additionally, a CSPV representative visits each site during program implementation and meets with school principals and LST teachers, as well as attends LST classroom sessions, to gain a better understanding of the site’s experiences with the program. The visit allows CSPV to obtain feedback regarding the implementation of the program, identify obstacles faced and overcome during implementation, and assess needs for further training and technical assistance.

Evaluation

To ensure fairness and allow for a rigorous evaluation, CSPV’s grant from Arnold Ventures requires that random assignment (a lottery) is used to select one-half of eligible schools to receive the LST curriculum in 2022 and one-half to receive it in 2024. We ask that schools adhere to the results of the lottery, and that schools selected for the 2024 program refrain from implementing LST on their own. Regardless of whether a school is in the 2022 or 2024 program group, CSPV will administer in-class surveys to 9th graders in Fall 2022 and December 2022, 10th graders in Fall 2023, and 11th graders in Fall 2024. We ask that schools assist with evaluation approvals (including research review and school board approvals) and identify a class time for the surveys to be administered.

Thank you for considering these grant components. If you have any questions about the requirements of the program or the grant, please contact Diane Ballard | 303-735-4164 | diane.ballard@colorado.edu.

I understand the points outlined above and will help ensure that my school adheres to all defined protocols.

(Principal Name)

(School)

(Phone)

(Principal Signature)

(Date)