

September 4, 2020

Re: Funding opportunity for LifeSkills Training High School program

Dear Colorado School Administrators:

As the Director of the *Healthy Kids Colorado Survey* administration, I am pleased to write in support of the opportunity for your district to participate in the implementation and evaluation of Botvin's LifeSkills Training (LST).

By participating, you will receive a year of this rigorously tested curricula for all of your 9th grade students, at no cost. This 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 recent surge in the use of e-vapor products among youth. High schoolers' use of e-cigarettes increased by nearly 80% from 2017 to 2018, and in 2018, over 3.6 million youth used e-cigarettes. According to the *Healthy Kids Colorado Survey*, nearly one-half of Colorado students (44%) have vaped.

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 shows great promise to help address vaping and other risk-taking behaviors in late adolescence.

Our *Healthy Kids Colorado Survey* team at the Colorado School of Public Health is strongly in support of this project and we encourage your district to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Ashley Brooks-Russell, PhD, MPH
Director, Healthy Kids Colorado Survey
Assistant Professor | Colorado School of Public Health
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus