

# Colorado School Professional Grant

## Health and Wellness Unit



### OVERVIEW

The Colorado School Professional Grant (SPG) Program supports state licensed school professionals. The grant provides funds to eligible education providers to enhance the presence of school professionals for elementary and secondary levels.

This grant program intends to increase the availability of school-based prevention, early intervention and health care services and programs to reduce the risk of marijuana and other substance use and abuse by school-aged students. The matching grant helps elementary and secondary schools:

- Increase the presence of licensed school professionals to provide substance abuse education and intervention to students who are enrolled in elementary and secondary schools;
- Provide training and resources to school staff for the implementation of evidence-based programming on substance abuse prevention education for all students; and
- Allow school professionals to connect students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools and at risk for substance abuse with services provided by community-based organizations for the treatment and counseling of substance abuse.

### BACKGROUND

With the legalization of retail marijuana in Colorado, the availability of marijuana to underage youth is anticipated to increase. Marijuana use by minors can have immediate and lasting health implications and many youth who engage in substance abuse develop or have underlying behavioral health needs. School professionals are in a unique position to educate, assess and treat youth who have substance abuse or behavioral health issues. The Colorado School Professionals Grant Program, enacted by Senate Bill 14-215 was signed into law on June 6, 2014.

### Senate Bill 14-215

This legislation specifies how sales tax dollars from retail marijuana will be spent:

*The bill creates the School Professional Grant program in the Department of Education to provide matching grants to education providers to enhance the presence of licensed school professionals in elementary and secondary schools throughout the state and to facilitate better screening, education, and referral care coordination for elementary and secondary school students with substance abuse and other behavioral health needs.*

*"I can confidently say that due to the prevention and intervention efforts of our SHP, there are multiple students who have stayed in school, avoided suspension, and are making more positive choices. It's clear that this position has had a positive impact on our school and especially an at-risk population"*

## Where can I learn more?

- To learn more visit the [School Health Professionals Grant Program webpage](#).
- For questions, contact Phyllis Reed at [reed\\_p@cde.state.co.us](mailto:reed_p@cde.state.co.us) or and Kristi Elliott at [elliott\\_k@cde.state.co.us](mailto:elliott_k@cde.state.co.us) or
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