



Colorado's School Health Professional Grant

Overview

The School Health Professional Grant (SHPG) program was designed to provide funds to eligible education providers to enhance the presence of school health professionals in their secondary schools. School Health Professionals are defined as School Counselors, School Nurses, School Psychologists, and School Social Workers.

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 secondary school students. This matching grant exists to help secondary schools:

- Increase the presence of school health professionals in secondary schools to provide substance abuse and mental/behavioral health care to students who are enrolled in secondary schools and have substance abuse or other mental/behavioral health needs
- Implement substance abuse prevention education and provide evidence-based resources to school staff, students, and families
- Reduce barriers for enrolled secondary students, who are at risk for substance abuse, to access services provided by community-based organizations for treatment and counseling.

Districts and Schools

- Over the past three years, more than 100 School Health Professionals have been placed in 68 school districts/charter schools that serve 205 secondary schools.
 - 2014-2015, 24 school districts/charter schools participated at 78 secondary schools.
 - 2015-2016, 20 schools districts/charters participated and placed at 59 secondary schools.
 - 2016-2017, 24 school districts/charters at 68 secondary schools.

Contacts

Jennifer Mello, Legislative Liaison
 Colorado Department of Education
 (720) 301-6137 or mello@bbk.com

Misti Ruthven, Executive Director
 Colorado Department of Education
 Innovation & Pathways Division
 (303) 866-6206 or ruthven_m@cde.state.co.us

Senate Bill 14-215

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

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