

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education announces:

Tulare County Board of Education Accepts \$1.8 Million on Behalf of the California Friday Night Live Partnership

VISALIA: The Tulare County Board of Education has accepted a \$1.4 million contract from California's Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and a \$415,296 grant from California's Office of Traffic Safety on behalf of the California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP).

The Alcohol and Drug Programs grant allows CFNLP to provide administrative support, technical assistance and training to county Friday Night Live (FNL), Club Live, and Friday Night Live Kids programs, and implement and provide technical assistance and training to 26 performance based FNL Mentoring County programs. Additionally, the CFNLP will collaborate with experts in prevention and youth development. The contract will also provide support for Teenwork, the statewide youth leadership training institute, scheduled for April 2004 in Santa Clara. Although the contract is for a 12-month period, there is a possibility the contract may be renewed for two additional years at similar annual amounts.

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The second grant, from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), will be used to fund the "Kids Can Save Lives Too" campaign and will enhance the Friday Night Live Kids elementary school program in the Central Valley to support recent legislation to encourage safety belt and helmet use by young people. Beneficial to both youth and their parents, the FNL Kids school campaign will focus on increasing the use of safety belts and helmets as a means to reduce injuries and death. Youth will be surveyed to assess safety belt and helmet use rates and appropriate classroom teaching aids, activity guides, advisor handbooks, media tools, identity items and websites to engage youth as agents of change will be developed. The OTS grant is funded over a two-year period for a total of \$415,296.

"This is exciting news for the Tulare County Office of Education and the California Friday Night Live Partnership," says County Superintendent Jim Vidak. "The grants' immediate impact will be in continued resources and support to Friday Night Live programs and youth across California. In the longer term, the Tulare County Office of Education and the California Friday Night Live Partnership are committed to inviting more partners to invest in the effective strategies of youth development," Vidak elaborates.

Dr. Jim Kooler, program administrator for CFNLP believes the grants will allow more young people to make positive choices in the future. "Ultimately, these grants will help us to reach and teach more young people about the importance of making positive choices about traffic safety, achieving in school and contributing to their community," says Kooler.

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Friday Night Live builds partnerships for positive and healthy youth development which engage youth as active leaders and resources in their communities. Serving 55 counties across California, the California Friday Night Live Partnership acts as an umbrella for four innovative youth development programs targeted at three distinct age groups: Friday Night Live (grades 9-12); Club Live (grades 7-8); Friday Night Live Kids (grades 4-6); and Friday Night Live Mentoring (grades 7-12).

More information about Tulare County Office of Education is available from our website at www.tcoe.org or by calling the public information office at 559-733-6606. For additional information about California Friday Night Live Program, go to www.fridaynightlive.org.

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