



HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities Throughout El Dorado County

Neda West, Director

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March 19, 2009

Ruette Carstenson, M.A.
Health Services Coordinator
El Dorado Union High School District
4675 Missouri Flat Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. Carstenson:

This letter is written in support of your grant proposal, Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Grant 9-12 Grades, offered by the California Department of Education. This proposal is consistent with the Public Health Division, Tobacco Use Prevention Program's (TUPP) goals of reducing tobacco availability to minors. Reducing the uptake of tobacco for young people is vital, 90% of all adult smokers begin while in their teens, and more than half become regular, daily smokers before they reach the age of 19.

The Tobacco Use Prevention Program has a long-standing partnership with and continues to work closely with the District in their instruction on tobacco use prevention. As the project director for TUPP, I recognize the importance of meeting CDC guidelines and using curricula that provides instruction on the negative physiologic and social consequences of tobacco use, social influence on tobacco use, peer norms regarding tobacco use, and refusal skills. The El Dorado Union High School District has a proven and successful track record of reducing youth prevalence rates of tobacco use through the utilization of evidence-based curricula.

The El Dorado Union High School District provides networking and collaboration opportunities for community organizations all committed to one goal: reducing tobacco use amongst high school aged youth.

The Tobacco Use Prevention Program applauds your efforts in providing positive youth development, healthy lifestyle choices, and reduction of tobacco use for high school students. We wish you success in obtaining the TUPE grant to continue your important and meaningful work.

Sincerely,

Christy Kessler
Project Director
Tobacco Use Prevention Program