



## Contra Costa County Office of Education

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Lynn Mackey, Superintendent of Schools

June 5, 2023

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
1025 Escobar Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in support of staff's recommendation for the allocation of cannabis prevention funding. While we have successfully reduced cigarette use in our county, with only 2% of 11th graders reporting current use, 14% of 11th graders report current marijuana (cannabis) use and our schools have long been working to address this issue with limited resources.

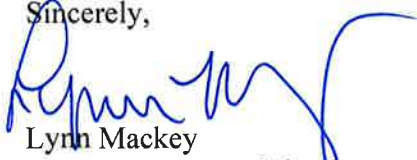
Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) has a long history of providing direct services to some of our county's most vulnerable students and also provides support services to districts and schools in Contra Costa County. These services include those that can be handled most effectively and economically on a regional basis rather than by each of our county's 285 schools or 18 school districts. CCCOE also has a long-standing partnership with Contra Costa Health, through collaborative work with multiple Public Health and Behavioral Health staff and teams. These partnerships have proven invaluable to support our work to serve Contra Costa children, teens, and adults.

CCCOE's Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) program staff have made a concerted effort to build an increasingly well-coordinated countywide program that has received statewide recognition. We established our TUPE comprehensive program consortium in 2011 and it has grown from 17% of districts, serving 22,635 students, to 61% of districts, serving 69,086 students. Beginning July 1, 72% of districts, serving 85,871 students in grades 6-12, will be members of our comprehensive program consortium. The resources to provide these programs are secured through successful CCCOE TUPE grant applications submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE) on behalf of member districts.

While I am proud of the work done to secure these critical resources, because TUPE funding comes from Prop 99 and Prop 56, staff are limited in their scope of work. Our TUPE staff have worked diligently to expand tobacco prevention services to address the intersection between tobacco and cannabis use, including addressing blunt and vape pen use. Through a concerted effort by Contra Costa County, Health and Education Services we can expand programs to delay cannabis use among young people whose brains are still under development. We are committed to working collaboratively to address this issue.

Our Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) team has the experience, expertise, reputation, reach, and existing relationships with school and community partners to support our local education agencies in effectively addressing cannabis use. We maintain positive relationships with our district and school-site leaders and would be able to apply available resources with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

Sincerely,



Lynn Mackey  
Superintendent of Schools  
Contra Costa County