

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **California Friday Night Live Partnership Announces New Grant**

*Funding supports campaigns to reduce unsafe driving practices*

Visalia, CA – The California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP), supported by the Tulare County Office of Education, today announced the award of \$400,000 to subcontract 40 traffic safety grants to Friday Night Live (FNL) county programs across the state. The new grants will be used to build upon the “DUI Court in Schools” assembly program that features an actual DUI trial in a school assembly format. Young people in FNL programs will implement youth-driven and youth-led campaigns that focus on reducing underage drinking to improve roadway safety. The funds come from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to be dispersed to FNL programs across the State.

“We appreciate the Office of Traffic Safety for their continued support of the California Friday Night Live Partnership,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Their investments are doubly important – they help safeguard California motorists and provide young people with real-world experience in creating positive change among their peers.”

The mini-grants will provide an opportunity for youth to partner with both local law enforcement and court officials to implement the DUI assemblies and the campaigns that will follow. The target communities will be those that appear in the top 50 on NHTSA’s Teen DUI rankings.

“Youth respond to other youth much better than to messages delivered by adults,” says Dr. Jim Kooler, CFNLP Administrator. “By supporting them with the skills and opportunities to make positive changes in their communities, we will see results that matter.”

“We have come a long way in California in the last four years,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “Every category of traffic fatality and injury has seen remarkable improvements. These grants will keep that momentum going.”

California’s roadway death toll today stands at a level not seen since 1950, despite huge increases in population and miles driven since then. This is a direct result of enforcement, engineering,

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emergency medical services, education and the coordinated efforts resulting from the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

The California Friday Night Live Partnership has begun the process to identify county FNL programs for funding. For further information, please access the website at [www.fridaynightlive.org](http://www.fridaynightlive.org).

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