# Colorado School Health Professional Grant

## Health Education Services Office

COLORADO
Department of Education

## Overview

The Colorado School Health Professional Grant Program supports state licensed special service providers and provides funds to eligible education providers to enhance the presence of health professionals in K-12 schools.

This grant program intends to increase the availability of school-based prevention, early intervention and health care services and programs for school-aged students to:

- To increase the presence of school health professionals (SHP) in schools to provide behavioral health care to students who have mental health, substance use or misuse, or other behavioral health needs.
- To provide training and resources for the SHPs, other behavioral health school team members, and school staff on the implementation of evidence-based programming (defined as programming that evaluation research has proven to be effective) on behavioral health education for all students;
- To allow SHPs to connect students with services provided by community-based organizations for treatment and counseling for students who need behavioral health care; and
- To provide behavioral health-care services at recipient schools, including but not limited to, screenings, counseling, therapy, referrals to community organizations, and training for students and staff on behavioral health issues.

## Background on SB14-215

School health professionals educate, assess, and treat youth experiencing behavioral and mental health needs. Senate Bill 14-215 enacted the Colorado School Health Professionals Grant Program. Since then, added amendments have provided more flexibility for coordinated care to meet behavioral/mental health needs for students, families, and staff across Colorado.

### 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 licensed school health professionals in K-12 schools throughout the state and to facilitate better screening, education, and referral care coordination for K-12 school students to support behavioral health needs.*

**For more information, including a funded grantees list, use this QR Code:**

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

**View all CDE fact sheets: www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs**

**For questions, contact:**

- **Phyllis Reed at Reed_P@cde.state.co.us**
- **Kristi Elliott at Elliott_K@cde.state.co.us**
- **Stephanie Bernard at Bernard_S@cde.state.co.us**
- **Liz Schroeder at Schroeder_E@cde.state.co.us**

**Updated January 2025**