



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

2014-2015  
and  
2015-2016  
School Health Professional Grant  
Legislative Report

Submitted to:

The Education Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives

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## **Executive Summary**

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The School Health Professional Grant (SHPG) Program became part of the Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) in 2014 (22-96-101 et seq.) to increase the presence of school-based health professionals (school nurses, school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists) within secondary schools (grades 7-12).

The purpose of the SHPG is to improve prevention, early intervention, and health care services and programs, in an effort to reduce the risks of marijuana and other substance use by secondary school students. The SHPG provided funding for a one-year grant cycle during the 2014-2015 school year and a one year grant cycle during the 2015-2016 school year. This report describes the SHPG grantees from the 2014-2015 (cohort 1) and 2015-2016 (cohort 2) school years. Highlights include:

- Cohort 1 provided funding to a total of 24 school districts and charter schools and included 78 secondary schools, serving 51,168 students
- Cohort 1 schools have an average free and reduced lunch rate of 32 percent.
- Cohort 2 provided funding to a total of 20 school districts and charter schools and included 61 secondary schools serving 53,282 students
- Cohort 2 schools had an average free and reduced lunch rate of 44.6 percent
- More than 75 school health professionals were hired from 2014-2016 including 25 school nurses, 22 school counselors, 22 school social workers and 4 school psychologists

This grant program intends to increase the availability of school-based prevention, early intervention, and behavioral health care services and programs to reduce the risk of marijuana and other substance use and abuse by secondary school students. This matching grant exists to help secondary schools to:

- Increase the presence of school health professionals in secondary schools to provide substance abuse and behavioral health care to students who are enrolled in secondary schools and have substance abuse or other mental/behavioral health needs
- To provide training and resources for school staff on the implementation of evidence-based programming on substance abuse prevention education for all students who are enrolled in secondary schools
- To allow school health professionals to connect students who are enrolled in secondary schools with services that are provided by community-based organizations for treatment and counseling for students who are at risk for substance abuse



## **Introduction**

Senate Bill 14-215 established the School Health Professional Grant Program, leading the General Assembly to enact legislation 22-96-101 et seq. of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.). Effective August 14, 2014, this required the State Board of Education to promulgate rules for the implementation of the program, including: the timeline for submitting applications to the Colorado Department of Education, the form of the grant application, criteria for awarding grants, and any information to be included in the Department's program report. The final rules can be accessed at 22-96-101 et seq. (C.R.S.).

### **Purpose of the Program**

It is anticipated that the legalization of retail marijuana in the state of Colorado may increase the availability of marijuana to underage youth. Marijuana use by minors can have immediate and lasting health implications, and many youth who engage in substance abuse develop or have underlying behavioral health needs. School health professionals are in a unique position to educate, assess, and refer youth who have substance abuse or behavioral health issues.

The purpose of the School Health Professional Grant Program (SHPG) is to increase the presence of school-based health professionals in Colorado's secondary schools. The funded school health professionals (counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers) are focused on improving prevention, early intervention, services and programs related to marijuana and other substance use.



## **Description of Program for** **2014-2015** **and** **2015-2016 School Years**

### **Grant Application Process**

Eligible education providers were invited to apply through the Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP included a rubric that proposals were measured by, based on 1) needs, 2) a well-designed plan, 3) partnerships, 4) sustainability, and 5) a budget narrative.

The SHPG defined an eligible education provider as:

- A school district (on behalf of one or more secondary schools);
- A Board of Cooperative Services (BOCES);
- A charter school (authorized by a school district or the Charter School Institute)

Priority was given to applicants that demonstrated high need based on:

- Information regarding marijuana and the number of marijuana establishments located within the boundaries of a school district;
- School climate surrounding availability, prevalence, usage, attitude of students and community, and increases in disciplinary action related to substance use.

Allowable activities included salary and benefits of School Health Professionals (school nurses, school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists), substance abuse and comprehensive health prevention education; training to support early identification of secondary students with substance abuse; and professional development.

Reporting Requirements (according to C.R.S.22-96-105), are as follows:

- (a) The number of school health professionals hired using grant moneys; and
- (b) A list and explanation of the services provided using grant moneys by grantees.

### **Timeline for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school year grant cycles**

For the 2014-2015 School Year (SY): 24 grantees were awarded a total of \$2,400,000. The RFP was released August 15, 2014. Applications were due September 24, 2014. Eleven grantees were funded at the conclusion of the first round. The total amount funded at the end of the first round was \$975,658. Following the first round of funding, \$1.52 million in funds remained, and a second round of applications was received November 5, 2014. Thirteen additional grantees were funded at the conclusion of the second round.

For the 2015-2016 SY: In total, 20 grantees were funded and the available funding was \$2.2 million. The RFP was released on March 25, 2015. Applications were due on May 7, 2015. 20 grantees were funded for a total allocation of \$2,154,094. CDE received nearly \$5 million in requests for these funds during this grant cycle.



## Grantees and School Health Professionals

Table 1 lists the districts that received funds from the School Health Professional Grant during the 2014-15 academic year.

**TABLE 1: SHPG Cohort 1 Grantees and School Type Funded**

	High	Middle	Undivided Middle & High	Total
<u>Districts</u>				
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	2			2
Alamosa RE11J	1	1		2
Archuleta 50JT	1	1		2
Boulder Valley RE2	1			1
Center Consolidated 26JT	1	1		2
Cherry Creek		1		1
Cripple Creek-Victor RE1			1	1
Douglas County RE1	4	6		10
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	2			2
Hayden RE1	1	1		2
Lake County R1	1			1
Lewis-Palmer 38	2	1		3
Mountain Valley RE1			1	1
Poudre		2		2
South Routt RE3	1			1
St. Vrain Valley RE1J	8	10	1	19
Telluride			1	1
Thompson		5		5
<u>Charter Schools</u>				
Atlas Preparatory School	1			1
New America School	1			1
Peak to Peak	1	1		2
<u>Blended Schools</u>				
GOAL Academy	1			1
HOPE Online School	11			11
<u>BOCES</u>				
San Juan BOCES	4			4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>78</b>



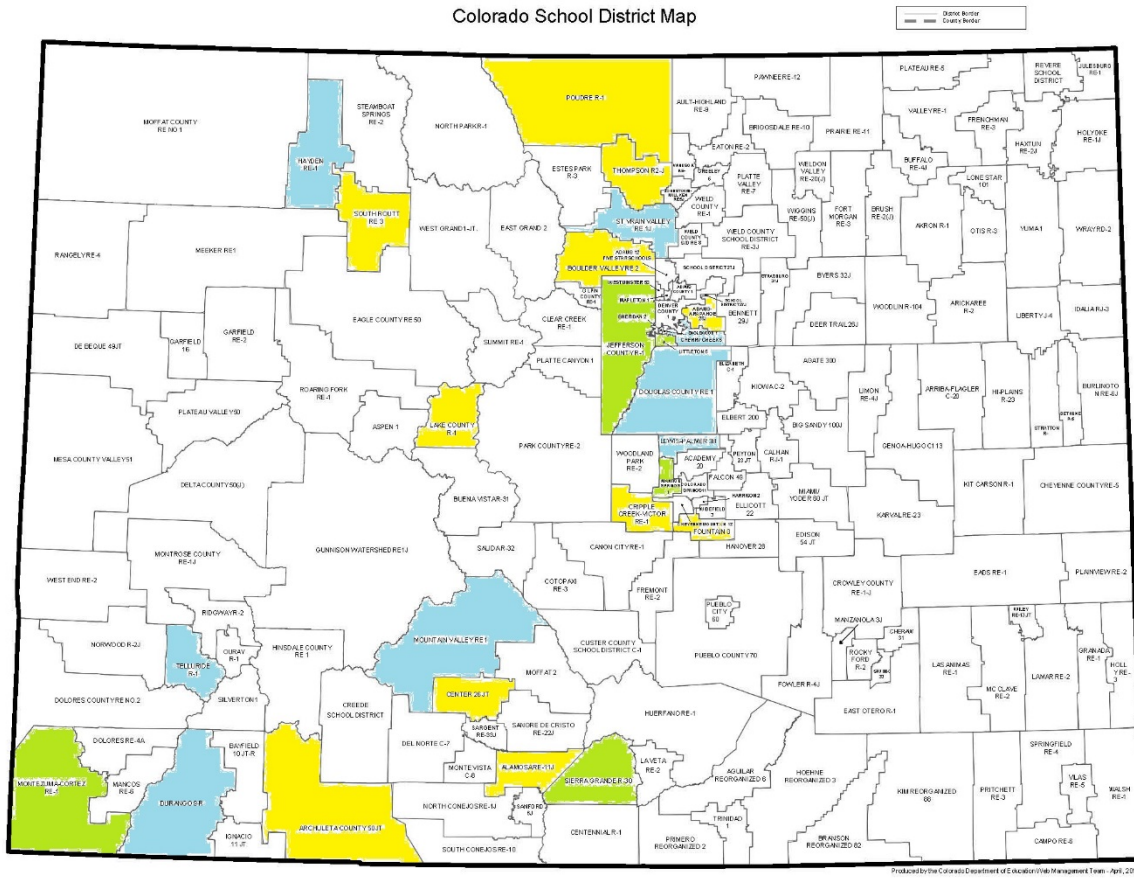
Table 2 lists the districts that received funds from the School Health Professional Grant during the 2015-16 academic year.

**TABLE 2: SHPG Cohort 2 Grantees and School Type Funded**

	High	Middle	Undivided Middle & High	Total
<b><u>Districts</u></b>				
Adams-Arapahoe 28J (APS)	3			3
Alamosa School District RE-11J	1	1		2
Archuleta 50JT	1	1		2
Boulder Valley RE2	1		1	2
Center Consolidated 26JT	1	1		2
Cripple Creek-Victor RE1			1	1
Douglas County (HOPE Online Schools)			8	8
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	1	2		3
Jefferson County Public School District	3	3		6
Lake County R1	3			3
Littleton Public Schools	3	4	1	8
Manitou Springs School District 14	1			1
Montezuma-Cortez School District Re-1			1	1
Poudre	1	1		2
Sierra Grande School District R-30			1	1
South Routt RE3	1	1		2
Thompson	4	5		9
<b><u>Charter Schools</u></b>				
Atlas Preparatory School	1			1
New America- Lowry, Lakewood and Thornton campuses	3			3
New Legacy Charter High School	1			1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>61</b>



# Colorado Map of Cohort 1 and 2 Grantees



**Legend:**

Yellow = Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 Grantees (funded in both 2014-2015 and 2015-2016)

Green = Cohort 2 Grantee (funded in 2015-2016)

Blue = Cohort 1 Grantee (funded in 2014-2015)

\*Charter Schools are not identified





## **School Health Professionals Funded by Grantees**

The tables and charts below list the districts that received funds from the School Health Professional Grant during cohort 1 and 2 and the roles that were hired as eligible under the grant. The four roles eligible to be hired under the grant are school nurses, school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists (See Appendix A for details).

**TABLE 3: Percentages of funded roles by the SHPG in Cohort 1 (2014-2015)**

Role	% funded of total
School Nurses	35%
School Counselors	30%
School Social Workers	34%
School Psychologists	1%

**CHART 1: Percentages of funded roles by the SHPG in Cohort 1**





**TABLE 4: Percentages of funded roles by the SHPG in Cohort 2 (2015-2016)**

Role	% funded of total
School Nurses	34%
School Counselors	30%
School Social Workers	26%
School Psychologists	10%

**CHART 2: Percentages of funded roles by the SHPG during Cohort 2**





**TABLE 5: SHPG Cohort 1 Grantees and School Health Professionals Funded, Reflected by FTE**

	Nurse	Counselor	Social Worker	Psychologist	Total
<b><u>Districts</u></b>					
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	N/A				
Alamosa RE11J	1.0				1.0
Archuleta 50JT		1.5			1.5
Boulder Valley RE2	1.0				1.0
Center Consolidated 26JT		1.25			1.25
Cherry Creek		1.0			1.0
Cripple Creek-Victor RE1		1.25			1.25
Douglas County RE1	5.0		1.0		6.0
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	2.0		1.0		3.0
Hayden RE1			1.0		1.0
Lake County R1			1.0		1.0
Lewis-Palmer 38	0.4	1.5			1.9
Mountain Valley RE1			1.0		1.0
Poudre		0.85			0.85
South Routt RE3		1.0			1.0
St. Vrain Valley RE1J			3.0		3.0
Telluride	0.2	1.2			1.4
Thompson	1.0		1.0		2.0
<b><u>Charter Schools</u></b>					
Atlas Preparatory School	1.0				1.0
New America School	1.0		1.0		2.0
Peak to Peak		0.5			0.5
<b><u>Blended Schools</u></b>					
GOAL Academy	No				
HOPE Online School		0.6	2.0	0.4	3.0
<b><u>BOCES</u></b>					
San Juan BOCES		1.0			1.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>11.65</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>36.65</b>



**TABLE 6: SHPG Cohort 2 Grantees and School Health Professional Funded, Reflected by FTE**

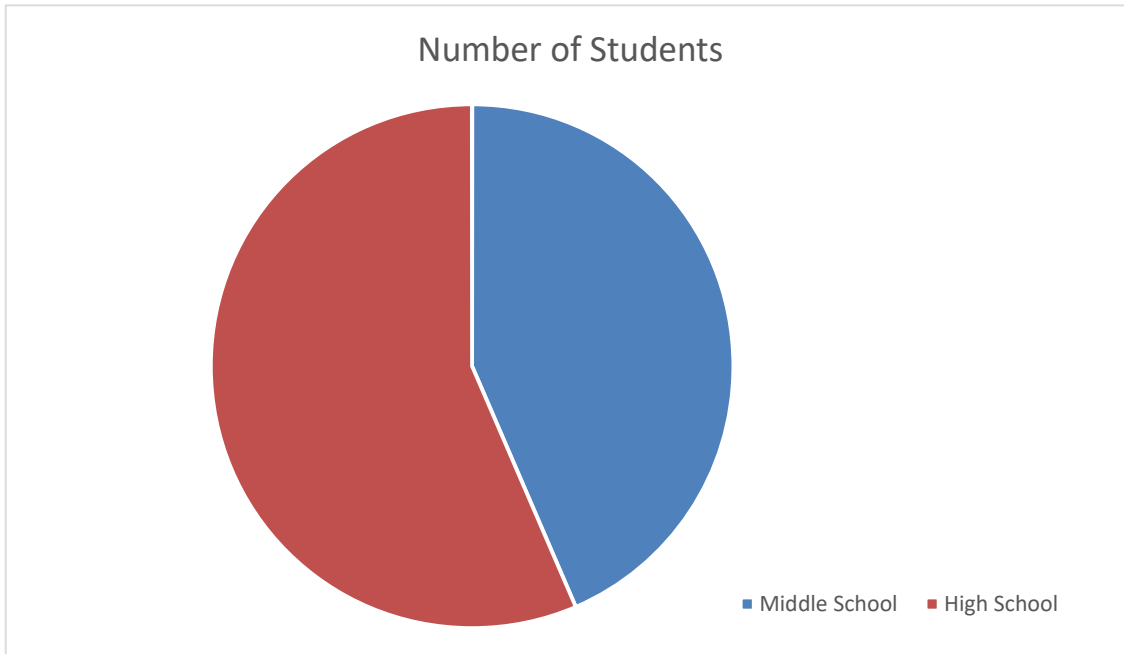
	Nurse	Counselor	Social Worker	Psychologist	Total
<b><u>Districts</u></b>					
Adams-Arapahoe 28J (APS)	2.0			2.0	4.0
Alamosa School District RE-11J	1.0				1.0
Archuleta 50JT		3.0			3.0
Boulder Valley RE2	2.0	1.0			3.0
Center Consolidated 26JT		.5			.5
Cripple Creek-Victor RE1	.25	1.0			1.25
Douglas County (HOPE Online Schools)		.6	1.6	.4	2.6
Fountain-Ft. Carson 8	2.0	1.0	1.0		4.0
Jefferson County Public School District		1.0			1.0
Lake County R1			1.0		1.0
Littleton Public Schools			1.0		1.0
Manitou Springs School District 14	1.0				1.0
Montezuma-Cortez School District Re-1		1.25			1.25
Poudre	.5	1.0			1.5
Sierra Grande School District R-30	.4	.4			.8
South Routt RE3			1.0		1.0
Thompson	1.0		1.0		2.0
<b><u>Charter Schools</u></b>					
Atlas Preparatory School	1.0			1.0	2.0
New America- Lowry, Lakewood and Thornton campuses	1.0		2.0		3.0
New Legacy Charter High School			.6		.6
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>12.15</b>	<b>10.75</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>35.5</b>



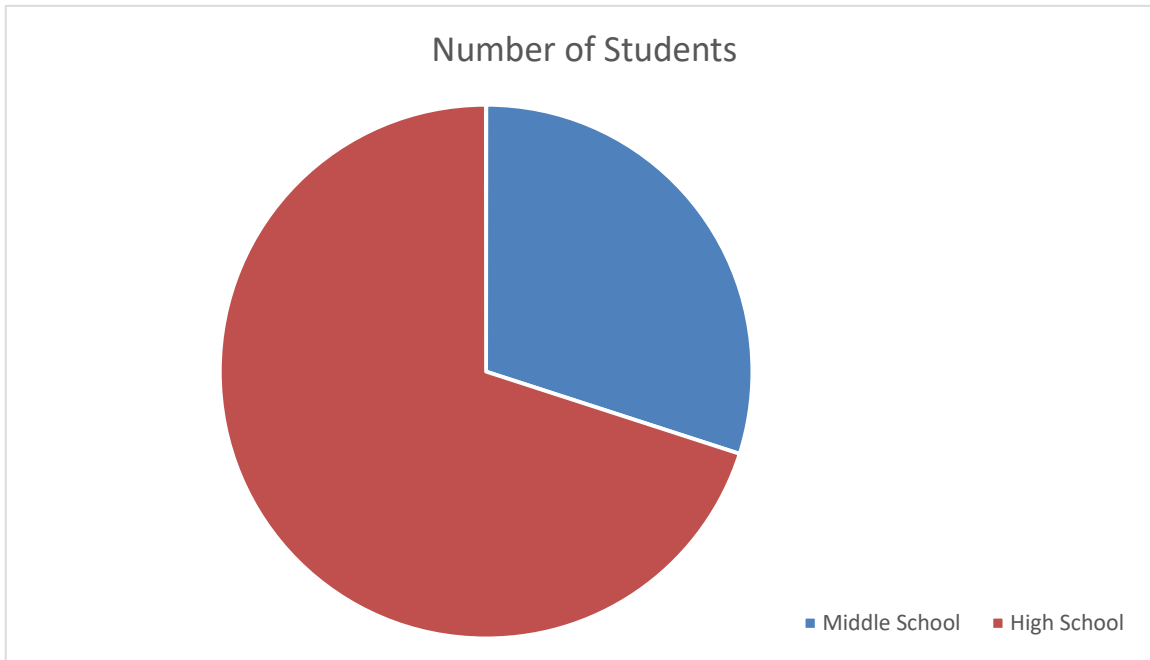
## **Grantees by Student Demographics**

The charts below list the districts and associated student demographics for each cohort.

**CHART 3: Percentage of middle and high school students served during Cohort 1 (2014-2015)**



**CHART 4: Percentage of middle and high school students served by grantees during Cohort 2 (2015-2016)**





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## **Conclusion**

The 2014-15 academic year was the first for the School Health Professional Grant and began with serving more than 50,000 students in 78 schools. In the following school year, 2015-2016, more than 53,000 students were served in 61 schools. School Health Professionals were able to provide professional development and staff training on evidence based programs for the prevention of substance abuse and behavioral healthcare services to students attending the 139 schools that were involved in both years of funding.

Cohort 3 grantees have been funded since the beginning of the 2016 school year and have received a 3 year grant. Twenty-four districts have been funded through the SHP Grant in this cohort and have hired 44 School Health Professionals who work in 68 secondary schools across Colorado. In total, \$2,195,492 was allocated to grantees.



## **Appendix A: Licensure Definitions (per statute)**

### **School Counselor:**

- has held a Colorado Professional Special Services License in school counseling for a minimum of five years; has demonstrated professional growth through continuing education, professional leadership experiences and exceptional program development;
- has demonstrated commitment to the school counseling profession through professional organization involvement, supervision and training of other school counselors, publication of professional materials and presentations at professional conferences; and
- has demonstrated active community involvement, development of effective parent partnership programs and promotion of cooperation with other professional educators.

### **School Nurse:**

- has completed additional preparation in the following areas: advanced practice in nursing; specialties in school health-related fields; additional certification in nursing administration, vocational education or other certifications applicable to school nursing;
- has demonstrated professional leadership experiences and exceptional program development;
- has mentored school nurses and supervised practicum students;
- has had active participation in school nurse professional organizations; and
- has participated in teaching, research and/or publishing to further the specialty of school nursing.

### **School Psychologist:**

- has demonstrated commitment to the profession of school psychology through active involvement and leadership in local, state or national school psychology organizations;
- has mentored school psychologists with an initial license and supervised school psychology interns;
- has contributed to school and district program development;
- has produced professional publications and presentations; and
- has received recognition by peers for outstanding performance.

### **School Social Worker:**

- has demonstrated leadership in state school social work organizations;
- has actively participated in leadership roles in national social work organizations and other community and human service organizations;
- holds advanced credentials in the field (e.g., doctorate in social work, school social work specialist credential, diplomate in clinical social work, etc.);
- has demonstrated outstanding skill in service to schools and children, such as the creation of innovative and successful programs and services to meet the needs of students and mentoring and supervising school social workers and other school professionals; and
- has received recognition by peers for outstanding performance.