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NEWS– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, December 7, 2018
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Solano County Office of Education Receives Grant from Department of Justice

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) has been awarded a Tobacco Law Enforcement (TLE) Grant in the amount of \$1,200,000 from the State of California Department of Justice, to expand its work in tobacco prevention through programs designed to reduce the illegal sale to minors. SCOE in partnership with Benicia, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, and Vallejo City Unified School Districts and the Fairfield Police Department will use these funds to prevent and deter tobacco use by our youth on school premises and support local law enforcement in prevention techniques. Tobacco cessation, intervention, and support services for students to quit smoking will be implemented, along with new signage that will be posted at schools and youth engagement events.

The 2017-18 California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) Report for Solano County showed use of electronic smoking devices, including vaporizers and e-cigarettes, has surpassed that of conventional smoking. For instance, 27% of 11th grade students reported using e-cigarettes at least once, compared to 7% having smoked a cigarette; while e-cigarette use among non-traditional students was 43%; and only a small percent of high school students, 9% of 9th grade and 8% of 11th grade, thought cigarettes were difficult to obtain.

According to Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson, “This is a dynamic partnership between educational communities, health agencies, and law enforcement. Funding from the grant will provide additional services to support our County Office of Education’s ongoing efforts, through a unique youth engagement strategy, to combat the illegal sales and marketing of tobacco products to students. We are grateful to the Attorney General’s Office for the funding and thrilled to be a part of this statewide endeavor that brings us one step closer to a healthier community.”

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