



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools
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NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release

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Organization: Solano County Office of Education

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Solano Students Advocate for Teen Wellness

SOLANO COUNTY, CA – Friday Night Live (FNL) student chapters across Solano County are actively engaging their communities in an effort to improve health and wellness for teens. Currently, over 100 youth throughout Solano County participate in a local FNL chapters, working on a variety of projects surrounding substance use (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) prevention and its connection to mental health and wellness, violence prevention, social justice and equity.

The Benicia FNL chapter has focused on tobacco and vaping prevention, youth mental health and wellness, and underage drinking and drunk driving prevention through the support of various mini grants. The chapter presented twice before the Benicia City Council in collaboration with the Kyle Hyland Foundation to outline two proclamations advocating for Substance Abuse Prevention and Awareness Week and Friday Night Live Month.

Benicia FNL member Miah Chao said, “Benicia Friday Night Live’s work is important because it allows Benicia’s youth to have an active voice in their community and stand up for change. Through these areas of focus, we strive to create the safest environment possible for the youth of Benicia.”

Vanden High School’s FNL Chapter has also received several mini grants to develop awareness campaigns around distracted driving, underaged drinking and drunk driving, and tobacco and vape prevention. They have developed public service announcements as well as printed media and are developing trainings to educate merchants on the importance of not selling to minors.

Vanden FNL was also featured on KUIC’s morning radio show. Chapter leader Diana Eagon shared statistics about underage drinking, dangerous driving practices and tips to keep youth safe from alcohol. The chapter is developing a podcast with the help of their advisor and school staff, to focus on mental health and wellness and other topics affecting youth.

The Solano Youth Coalition (SYC) is facilitated by the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), and serves as the umbrella chapter of the Solano FNL programs. SYC meets with local leaders, councils and boards to discuss local policies that effect health and safety for students and to share the work local FNL charters have accomplished throughout the year. Members of SYC met with Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, to highlight their work, discussed topics affecting Solano County students.

Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson remarked, “Opportunities for students to meet with local leaders to discuss their work on the important issues like substance abuse prevention is important to the well-being of our youth and our community. Solano County’s FNL programs help empower youth to become active leaders in their communities,”



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The Friday Night Live program was established in 1984 to specifically address underage impaired driving by promoting lifestyles free of alcohol and drugs for youth. Since its formation, the program has evolved and now includes focuses on additional community and youth issues using proven youth development principles and practices. FNL fosters a young person's capacity to contribute to their community and builds partnerships that support youth initiatives.

For more information about Solano Friday Night Live, please contact Johanna Nowak-Palmer, Program Manager of Youth Development, at jnowak@solanocoe.net or visit our websites: <https://solanocoe.net/sfnlp> and <https://solanocoe.net/solanoyouthcoalition>.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.