

# CDC Partners Promote Sun Safety for Youth: Sun Safe Colorado



## School Partners in Skin Cancer Prevention

In 2002, CDC released the *Guidelines for School Programs to Prevent Skin Cancer*, which outlined seven guidelines that schools can use to reduce skin cancer risk among students. These guidelines provide resources and suggestions for how schools can work to improve sun safety practices in seven major areas: policy, environmental change, education, family involvement, professional development, health services, and evaluation. To foster implementation of these guidelines, the CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control and the Division of Adolescent and School Health made funds available to states with the Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP) to conduct pilot skin cancer prevention activities. Beginning in late 2003 through early 2007, the Department of Education in three states—Colorado, Michigan, and North Carolina—were awarded funds to pilot activities for addressing the seven skin cancer guidelines. Each state was required to develop a partnership with their respective state Comprehensive Cancer Control program to draw from the expertise of each program and promote sun safe behaviors among youth.

## Goals

1. Implement skin cancer education and prevention programs as a part of the CSHP in at least 30 school districts.
2. Increase policies and guidelines to promote skin cancer prevention behaviors and environments in at least 30 school districts.
3. Increase to a minimum of five objectives directly related to school-aged children (K-12) and collaborate on the implementation of these objectives in the *Colorado Cancer Plan 2010*.

## Activities

Skin Cancer Guideline	Activity
<b>Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disseminated policies and guidelines to sun safety training participants and school boards within the districts that received mini-grant funding.</li><li>• Created the Sun Safe Colorado Web site as a policy development tool for schools.</li></ul>
<b>Environmental Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Awarded 77 mini-grants to schools and school districts to incorporate sun safety into their school environment (e.g., shade structures, trees).</li><li>• Encouraged staff and students to use sun protection when outdoors.</li></ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partner Klein Buendel provided training and technical assistance to mini-grant recipients in developing action plans and policy implementation.</li><li>• Mini-grant activities included providing sun safety tips in morning announcements, an anti-tanning pre-prom fashion show, anti-indoor tanning press kits for student journalists, and ultra violet (UV) detectors for students.</li></ul>
<b>Family Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printed sun safety policies in student and parent handbooks.</li><li>• Sent informed consent forms to parents asking permission for students to use sunscreen and explaining the need for sun safety awareness and education.</li></ul>
<b>Professional Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offered trainings to school staff on sun safety policy development and skin cancer prevention.</li><li>• Created portions of the Sun Safe Colorado Web site with resources for school staff.</li></ul>
<b>Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Included school nurses in Sun Safe Colorado trainings.</li></ul>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Included interactive personal risk assessment tool in Sun Safe Colorado Web site.</li><li>• Conducted focus groups with school staff.</li></ul>

## Primary Partners

- Colorado Department of Education
- Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
- Klein Buendel, Inc.
- Creative Media Solutions
- The Center for Research Strategies

## Resources

Sun Safe Colorado: <http://www.sun safecolorado.org/>\*

Sun Safe Colorado Success Stories: [http://sun safecolorado.net/school/resources/resources\\_success.shtml](http://sun safecolorado.net/school/resources/resources_success.shtml)\*

CDC Skin Cancer: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/>

\*Links to non-Federal organizations found at this site are provided solely as a service to our users. These links do not constitute an endorsement of these organizations or their programs by CDC or the Federal Government, and none should be inferred. CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organization Web pages found at these links.

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