



## TUPE Program Talking Points

Below are talking points that can be used as part of e-mail communication, as well as for presentations. Feel free to pick and choose the information that is relevant to you and your audience.

While this is general information, we encourage you to add in **site-specific information**, engaging your peer educators in meaningful ways, including inviting them to present or co-present at a staff meeting.

### General Program Information

**Purpose:** The purpose of the TUPE program is to **reduce youth tobacco use** by helping young people make healthful tobacco-related decisions through research-validated educational instruction and activities, as well as **empower the next generation of tobacco-free advocates**.

**Program Components/Strategies:** TUPE programs include classroom-based substance abuse prevention programs, intervention and cessation services, and youth development activities, including engaging students as peer educators.

- Middle School: **Model Smoking Prevention Program (MSPP)** is an evidence based, 6-session anti-tobacco program for middle school students. All 6th graders will receive this program. Includes vaping and e-cigarette prevention.
- High School: **SPORT Prevention Plus Wellness Program** is an evidence-based program that connects substance abuse prevention with fitness, health and positive image promotion. All 9th graders will receive this program.
- **Project Success:** Anti-tobacco/drug use prevention program and support services for at-risk teens.
- **Intervening With Teen Tobacco Users (TEG):** An 8-week educational program for students in grades 7-12 who don't want to stop using tobacco. Used as a positive alternative to suspension.
- **Tobacco Use Awareness Program (TAP):** An educational program that provides tobacco-using teens with the information, motivation, and action steps to move toward a healthier, tobacco-free lifestyle.
- Teams of students from every middle school, high school, and non-traditional (continuation) school are trained as **TUPE Peer Educators** each year. These students deliver anti-tobacco messages at their school through classroom presentations and school-wide events.

While the primary focus of the program is tobacco-prevention, the **strategies are comprehensive** and include information on alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs, and students are building a wide variety of important and relevant skills, including: communication, planning, public speaking, and decision making.





### Why Tobacco Prevention?

- Although we have seen an overall decrease in tobacco-use, **rates remain high among certain populations of students**. For example, continuation school students use tobacco at a rate 300-500% higher than that of the general student population. *TUPE programs directly address these disparities.*
- Adolescent **e-cigarette/vape pen use tripled between 2013 and 2014**. *E-cigarettes/vape pens are integrated throughout our TUPE strategies.*
- **90% of adult smokers began using under the age of 18**. *Now is the time to implement effective prevention and intervention strategies.*
- There is a **strong connection between tobacco-use and other high-risk behaviors**. *TUPE strategies are comprehensive and address other high-risk behaviors, including alcohol and marijuana use, violence, etc.*

