

# CA Friday Night Live Partnership

## Overview



Dr. Jim Kooler,  
Administrator

6200 S. Mooney Blvd.  
P.O. Box 5091  
Visalia, CA 93278-5091

(559) 733-6496  
(559) 737-4231 (f)

Tulare County  
Office of Education  
Tim A. Hira, County Superintendent of Schools

★ California Friday Night  
Live Collaborative

★ Friday Night Live

★ Club Live

★ Friday Night Live Kids

★ Friday Night Live  
Mentoring

★ California Youth Council

★ Friday Night Live builds  
partnerships for positive and  
healthy youth development which  
engage youth as active leaders and  
resources in their communities.

★  
fridaynightlive.org

The Friday Night Live (FNL) program was established in 1984 as a high school program to reduce underage drinking and driving and to promote a teenage lifestyle free of alcohol and other drugs. The mission of FNL is to build partnerships for positive and healthy youth development that engage youth as active leaders and resources in their communities. Youth involved in FNL have the opportunity to develop skills and plan activities in concert with their peers and adult advisors. FNL programs are youth-driven; therefore, providing meaningful roles for youth in the program. FNL builds community partnerships that support youth, helping to foster a sense of autonomy and power, and promote the belief in a young person's capacity to contribute. In supporting the holistic development of youth, FNL has gone above and beyond the message of prevention.

Today the FNL program operates in 50 of the 58 counties on more than 600 sites including schools, community centers, juvenile halls and housing projects. With age appropriate programs in elementary school, Friday Night Live Kids (FNL Kids/FNLK), in middle school (Club Live/CL), in high school, Friday Night Live (FNL), cross-age mentoring, Friday Night Live Mentoring (FNL M), and the California Youth Council (CYC). The cumulative budget of the local programs is \$7.4 million with approximately 150 staff.

FNL is driven by youth-adult partnerships that create essential and powerful community activities that enhance and improve their environments. Some activities include educating policy-making officials, first responders, providing safe social outlets for youth, and hosting training and conferences on varying issues from leadership to social factors that contribute to substance abuse. FNL chapters offer participants the opportunity to connect to their school and/or community through skill-building activities and caring relationships in environments free of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence.

In 1998 FNL began the process of applying the best practices and research to transition to a "youth development" model. Youth development is the ongoing process that engages young people in building skills, attitudes, knowledge and experiences that prepare them for the present and the future. It also facilitates their efforts to become fully prepared, capable and competent individuals. The goal is to promote developmental outcomes, not just problem prevention or achievement outcomes.

Friday Night Live programs have a long history of tackling youth related traffic safety issues, such as bicycle/helmet safety, seat belt safety, distracted driving and impaired driver awareness. Youth driven traffic safety campaigns and projects are an important component of FNL, CL, FNL Kids, and Mentoring programs and a positive approach to increasing the safety and well-being of youth.

The California Youth Council (CYC) is a group of approximately twelve youth, high school and college age. They are reflective of California's youth population, who work together to bring youth voice to important issues affecting young people. They bring their prevention experiences from geographically diverse counties together to inform and support state level issues and the efforts of the California Friday Night Live Partnership. They host the annual FNL Youth Summit.

In March 1996, the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs began contracting out the statewide coordination of the FNL programs to the Tulare County Office of Education, which resulted in the formation of the California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP). Services provided to county FNL/CL/FNL Kids/FNL Mentoring programs include:

- Program design and development assistance;
- Technical assistance and training to incorporate the youth development and FNL Mentor models;
- Development and distribution of research materials on innovative youth programs;
- Support for the involvement of youth in all phases of program planning and implementation;
- Identification of new and existing cultural and geographically diverse youth organizations to work with the CFNLP in the design of new programs;
- Conducting routine evaluations to assess progress, and to refine, improve and strengthen program effectiveness;
- Use of web technology to serve as a forum for youth, provide resources on prevention information, and function as a network for FNL county coordinators to access programmatic information

The CFNLP is the intermediary that provides the leadership and support to the FNL statewide network as it continually evolves to meet the needs of young people. FNL was designed in California for California!