

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Pamela Kunze
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606
cell: 559/901-3445

**Tulare County Office of Education and California Friday Night Live Partnership
Announce:**

California's Attorney General Bill Lockyer to Participate in "Listening Session" with Local Students

Monday, April 28, 2003

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Tulare County Office of Education, Education Center, 2637 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia

The Tulare County Office of Education and the California Friday Night Live Partnership are privileged to host California's Attorney General, Bill Lockyer, for a town hall-style listening session with area youth. The event, entitled "Listening to the Youth," will take place Monday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m., at the Tulare County Office of Education in the Education Center.

Young people and adults from Tulare, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, and Merced Counties have been invited to participate in the listening session. Additionally, numerous community leaders and law enforcement officials from the region have been invited to participate by swapping roles and providing the young people with opportunities to be in policy-making positions. In turn, the community leaders will listen and assist the youth in making recommendations on resources, services and programs necessary for them to create the lives they envision.

Following brief remarks by the Attorney General, those in attendance will work in groups to identify key issues that are important to them and provide input and recommended courses of action to Attorney

General Lockyer. The listening session format is a follow-up to the hugely successful Regional Town Hall Sessions that were recently conducted at the statewide 19th Annual Youth Development Training Institute, Teenwork 2003, in Garden Grove, California.

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“What is great about the listening session format,” says California Friday Night Live Partnership Administrator Dr. Jim Kooler, “is that youth are providing input on issues that are important to youth. I don’t know of any other program where that happens. It is truly remarkable to hear the depth of understanding in their discussions and recommendations,” Kooler adds.

As a result of meeting with the state’s Attorney General, area youth will learn about resources available to them through the Department of Justice. Additionally, following the meeting, recommendations from the youth will be documented and forwarded to the Attorney General’s office.

“We’re excited and honored to host Attorney General Lockyer for this listening session,” remarks Tulare County Superintendent of Schools, Jim Vidak. “This is a wonderful opportunity for our local students to share their ideas and recommendations with one of our state’s top elected officials,” Vidak says.

“Another equally important outcome of the listening session is that it provides our local students and leaders with opportunities to connect and establish networks for ongoing input on these vital issues,” Vidak says.

For additional information, please visit our websites at www.fridaynightlive.org, or www.tcoe.org. You may contact the Tulare County Office of Education Public Information Officer, Pamela Kunze, at (559) 733-6606.

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