

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **Media Alert**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: After school programs to participate in annual Alcohol Awareness Challenge October 12; 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.; Los Tules Middle School, 801 W. Gail, Tulare**

Students in the Tulare County Office of Education's CHOICES After School Program will be competing in teams at the annual Alcohol Awareness (A<sup>2</sup>) Challenge on Wednesday, October 12. This year, the teams will represent Cypress Elementary (Tulare), Heritage Elementary (Tulare), Kohn Elementary (Tulare), Los Tules Middle School (Tulare), Mulcahy Middle School (Tulare), Pleasant View School (Porterville), and Ducor Union School.

Founded in 2013, the A<sup>2</sup> Challenge is a competition facilitated through a partnership between the CHOICES After School and Prevention Programs and the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency. The event is designed to raise awareness and decrease the use and abuse of alcohol among the youth of Tulare County. Students participating in the A<sup>2</sup> Challenge prepare an alcohol awareness assignment and compete in a quiz bowl competition.

Alcohol Awareness Assignment: Each team competing in the A<sup>2</sup> Challenge is asked to research a specific alcohol-related topic which affects the local community. Students can research a topic of

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their own choosing, such as examining the social, legal and economic implications of a drunk driver who fatally injures another person or exploring the potential impact a DUI conviction could have on a young person's academics and career. At the event, participating teams must make a four-minute presentation on the topic utilizing a performance-style, video or multimedia format.

Quiz Bowl Competition: Teams of sixth, seventh and/or eighth graders are tested on alcohol statistics and related information they received prior to the competition.

At the conclusion of the event, students will participate in a Town Hall-style meeting with a panel of prevention experts and receive scores and prizes for their presentations.

For additional information, contact Rob Herman, Tulare County Office of Education public information officer, at (559) 733-6606. For event specifics, contact Alvaro Rodriguez of Tulare County Office of Education's CHOICES Prevention Program at (559) 651-0155.

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