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Make Way for Summer!

With another school year in the rear view and another summer in the headlights, the Project ALERT team congratulates our teachers, school administrators, and other community organization leaders on another great year of fierce dedication to our nation's youth. Thank You!

We'd like to end the school year on a lyrical note, and begin our summer issue of *The Educator* with some of our favorite quotes about summer.



A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken. ~ James Dent

It's a cruel season that makes you get ready for bed while it's light out. ~ Bill Watterson

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the blue sky, is by no means a waste of time. ~ John Lubbock

From all of us at Project ALERT, *have a great summer!*

Reflections on Our First Year of Project ALERT

When Pot Is Legal and Parents Are Users: How Can Project ALERT Educators Respond to Students?

By Eric Pedersen



Dear Project ALERT community,

This July will mark the one-year anniversary of Project ALERT moving back to RAND after 23 years at the BEST Foundation. I want to thank you for your continued investment in this program. We here at RAND have thoroughly enjoyed learning from many of you what we can do to continue to support and improve the program. I would like to share a few of our past-year accomplishments and a few goals for the future of Project ALERT.

We continue to support Project ALERT educators and offer freely accessible materials

We have ensured that very little has changed about how educators are trained and how they access Project ALERT materials. ([see full story](#))

We have expanded Project ALERT to include emerging topics of importance for middle school youth

Recent articles we've published have focused on: (1) the large increase in youth e-cigarette usage, and (2) the emergence of laws legalizing recreational use of marijuana in some states. ([see full story](#))

We have expanded the reach of our program to many new users in the United States and in other countries

Since July 2014, over 2,000 new users have signed up for Project ALERT training. ([see full story](#))

We have sought your input and are working to respond to your needs

Your feedback will help inform us about what the larger Project ALERT community would like to see addressed in the future. ([see full story](#))

We are designing several research projects and need your help in these efforts

Please [get in touch](#) with us if you would like to partner with the Project ALERT research team. ([see full story](#))

Once again, I want to thank you for your continued participation in the Project ALERT community. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or comments. We have enjoyed working

By Andrea Warren

Rising to the Challenge in Colorado



Since 2014 and the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana in Colorado, Project ALERT teachers have faced a dilemma: how can they effectively help teens decipher confusing messages about the safety and health consequences of marijuana now that it's legal recreationally and some students' parents grow and/or use it?

Educators, police, community leaders, and medical personnel--not to mention concerned parents who wish to keep their teens away from marijuana--worry about the drug's increasing availability and its growing social acceptance. In addition to addiction and the desire to try more potent drugs, possible consequences of early, consistent use of marijuana are many. They can include impact on brain development, interference with memory and sleep patterns, and negative implications for current and long-term mental health problems.

When reporting incidents related to drugs, school districts lump together heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and prescription drugs, but experts suggest that Colorado's 24% increase in middle school violations this past year is largely due to marijuana. These violations have included students bringing pot-laced edibles to school and sharing them, smoking pot on school grounds, and selling pot to other students.

([see full story](#))

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- Be part of an online community

with all of you and are looking forward to the future of Project ALERT.

Sincerely,



Director, Project ALERT
Behavioral Scientist
RAND Corporation

- Connect with other Project ALERT practitioners
- Stay informed with interesting articles throughout the year



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