



Botvin *LifeSkills Training* Middle School Program LST CLASSROOM OBSERVER FACT SHEET

The University of Colorado Boulder is seeking applicants for a short-term, part-time, contractual position to assess implementation of a school-based drug prevention program.

About the Program

The Botvin *LifeSkills Training* (LST) Middle School Program is a prevention program with the goal to prevent substance use and other risky behaviors by providing students with knowledge and skills to 1) resist peer and media pressure to smoke, drink, or use drugs, 2) develop a positive self-image, 3) build healthy relationships, and 4) make responsible decisions and effectively solve problems. This curriculum, comprised of 30 sessions over three years (15 in Level 1, 10 in Level 2, and 5 in Level 3), is delivered in middle or junior high schools and offered to all or nearly all students in grades 6-8 or 7-9.

Requirements

Observers attend an initial teacher training, typically held at or near the participating site, to become familiar with the structure, content, and goals of the LST program, as well as a training pertaining to protocols on completion and submission of all required observation forms.

Observers visit each LST teacher up to four times each year over the course of the program to monitor the implementation process. For sites with many LST teachers, observers may share these duties with additional observers. LST is designed to be taught at least once per week, and may be taught up to five times per week as a mini-course; therefore, with 15 sessions, a given implementation cycle may span three weeks to approximately four months.

Observers maintain an objective, neutral position and are responsible for completing and submitting the required observation forms that detail how LST implementation occurred in the classroom. Observers remain in contact with CU Boulder, providing updates of schedule changes, major implementation obstacles, LST teacher turnover, or problems that interfere with their own availability.

Annually, the CU Boulder representative observes an LST lesson along with observers, with both individuals completing observation checklists for the lesson. After comparing both checklists and discussing areas of agreement and any discrepancies, both sets of checklists are retained by CU Boulder as an important record for consistency.

Lastly, observers complete and submit an Observer Feedback Survey at the end of the year providing details about overall program implementation.

Who May Apply

This position varies in its time commitment (e.g., 5 hours one week and 10 the next; daily for two weeks; weekly for four months), depending on the number of participating teachers in the district and their implementation schedule(s). Applicants must have a flexible schedule and be available for the duration of the LST program in a given year. Observers should be motivated, independent, and conscientious employees who are able to complete tasks without much direct supervision. Candidates may include retired school personnel, self-employed individuals, or other professions, though individuals with, or seeking, full-time jobs should not apply.

Compensation for Observations Conducted on Personal Time

Observers receive \$200 per full day (prorated if shorter than 8-hour days) for attending training on the LST Program and CU Boulder observer protocols, as well as \$60 for each LST class session. Payment for training will be processed once observers complete 16 observations (or all observations, if completing fewer than 16 in all). Observers will be reimbursed for postage if checklists are sent by mail, but all other costs (e.g., phone calls, mileage, food) have been calculated into the \$60 payment per completed observation.

For more information regarding this position, please contact lstgrant@colorado.edu.