

*With regard to alcohol and other drug use, the vast majority of Telluride Mountain School students hold positive beliefs, engage in responsible decision making, and exhibit healthy behaviors. Approximately three-quarters of all students surveyed have never had a drink of alcohol and report that they "typically" never drink. Not a single student reported drinking and driving or riding in a car with an intoxicated driver. The vast majority of students have never tried marijuana, and no use of any other illicit substances was reported. A further indicator of the health of The Mountain School community was the absence of any reported student use of alcohol or other substances before or during school events.*

*In addition to healthy behaviors, Mountain School students evidence healthy attitudes. For example, the vast majority of students see moderate or great risk in daily or binge drinking. Ninety-seven (97%) of students disagree that "it's cool to get drunk," with a majority believing that teenage drinking is either "never a good thing to do" or "all right as long as the person doesn't get drunk."*

*The Mountain School data also indicates a very healthy school climate. Students express high levels of acceptance of peers who choose not to drink with the vast majority believing that it's easy to make friends at The Mountain School without drinking, that students who choose not to drink are respected, and that students "let you make your own decisions about drinking alcohol." As further testimony to the health of the school climate, virtually all students say that academics are important to them and their peers, and over 90% of students disagree that "the social atmosphere at this school encourages alcohol use."*

*Students express very positive feelings about their school. An extraordinarily high proportion like going to school, feel valued as a person at their school, and feel that teachers and school staff care about them as students. While the vast majority of students do not see alcohol or drug use as a problem at their school, they nonetheless believe that their school is making a sincere effort to address these issues.*

*Almost all students report high levels of parent involvement and supervision. Ninety-four percent (94%) of students say that they eat meals with their family three or more times a week; nearly three-quarters report that their family eats together 6-7 times a week. This is an encouraging finding as family rituals such as eating together have been shown to be a strong protective factor in reducing alcohol and other drug use.*

*The FCD Student Attitudes and Behavior Survey findings should be a source of pride to the Telluride Mountain School – students, parents, teachers and staff alike. The results indicate a healthy, warm, tolerant and wise community, and we hope they will motivate the school to continue its strong commitment to prevention.- Spring 2008*