

School Health

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INTRODUCTION

NACDD's School Health Project is committed to building the capacity of Chronic Disease Directors and other health department staff involved in promoting children's health and wellness. Its mission is to assist states and territories in reducing the risk and burden of chronic disease in school communities in order to promote lifelong health and support academic success. The School Health Project provides up-to-date information and resources, professional development, peer networking opportunities, and technical assistance to help state and local health and education agency staff make informed decisions about a variety of school health issues.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide virtual learning opportunities and technical assistance related to school nutrition, physical education and physical activity, and the management of chronic conditions in schools
- To develop and disseminate new school health resources for state and local health and education agencies. Currently under development:
 - Guide to Improving School Employee Well-being
 - How to Communicate School Health Successes: A Toolkit
 - Customizable presentation introducing the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model
 - Videos featuring schools implementing the WSCC model
 - Expansion of NACDD School Health Resource Guide (www.nacdd1305.org/schoolhealth) to incorporate all components of the WSCC model

Spotlight on Success: Frisco Independent School District



year strategic plan that included an objective related to the whole child, along with strategies and specific expected results and action steps (Figure 7). In a fast-growing district, this step helped to provide needed structure and clarity for whole child associated programs and actions, along with accountability at the school and district level. Around the same time, the district hired a Director of Coordinated School Health to oversee the whole child efforts. In addition, the leadership reconfigured the district-level School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to ensure that membership reflect the ten components of the WSCC model. Under Texas law, each district must have a SHAC, and the majority of members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district who are not employed by the district. Frisco ISD went beyond the requirements, building a

Spotlight on Success: Thomasville City Schools



coordinator position was created, funded locally. The wellness coordinator played a pivotal role in educating school administrators, staff and parents about the importance of health and wellness and the CSH model. This helped to facilitate support and buy-in, leading to the adoption of a strong district wellness policy in 2008 that exceeded the federal requirements at the time. In addition, school-level wellness teams and the county-level School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) adopted a CSH framework for decision-making, and began to use the CSH model to regularly report to the school board on needs and progress in each of the CSH components. Over time, internal and external support for CSH grew, leading to strong community partnerships and grant funding to support various health-related initiatives. In 2014 TCS was awarded a Healthy Eating Active Living grant from the North Carolina

The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model: A GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTATION



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CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS
Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

Local Health Department and School Partnerships WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD HEALTHIER SCHOOLS



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ACHIEVING IMPACT:
State Successes in Improving School Nutrition, Physical Education,
Physical Activity, and the Management of Chronic
Health Conditions in Schools

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IMPACT

- School health communities of practice (COPs) focused on nutrition, physical education and physical activity, and the management of chronic conditions, with staff from 40 state health and education departments participating in at least one COP during 2017
- Highly-attended national webinars on various topics, including:
 - The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model: New Resources to Guide Implementation
 - Building School Wellness Policies to Expand Reach and Impact
 - Strengthening Collaboration Between Schools and Hospitals in the Management of Chronic Conditions
- Widely-used publications, with approximately 3,000 unique visitors to the school health publications webpage during the last project year:
 - The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model: A Guide to Implementation, along with WSCC Model Spotlight Stories
 - Achieving Impact: State Successes in Improving School Nutrition, Physical Education, Physical Activity, and the Management of Chronic Health Conditions in Schools
 - Local Health Department and School Partnerships: Working Together To Build Healthier Schools

OUTLOOK

The 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) recognized in federal law the need for schools to support the whole child and called out the importance of health and wellness in advancing academic achievement. With support from NACDD and other stakeholders, many state and local education agencies are using this opportunity to strengthen health-promoting policies, programs and practices in schools through application of the WSCC model. NACDD's School Health Project will continue to support the implementation of 1305 State Public Health Actions and identify new opportunities to work with states to improve student health and success.