

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS:

How Health Departments Work and How to Work with Health Departments

WHAT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN OFFER SCHOOLS: SUPPORT FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Public health departments can be valuable allies to state and local education agencies seeking to achieve healthy schools. Helping to promote or improve these partnerships is the goal of Partnering for Success: How Health Departments Work and How to Work with Health Departments,¹ a publication developed by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD). Partnering for Success outlines 11 key ways in which public health departments can help advance school health goals. This document focuses on one of these: support for health services.

In keeping with public health's essential service of linking people to needed health services and ensuring the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable, health departments can provide support for school nurses and physicians who manage students' illnesses in school. In some states health departments themselves employ and supervise school nurses who work in the school setting. Other health departments support school-based health centers. The public health department in Delaware operates school wellness clinics. In Arkansas, community health nurse specialists are paid by the state health department, but are housed in educational co-ops throughout the state; they provide training, services, supplies, and staff development for schools in their area. In many districts, public health departments assist with immunizations and health screenings for students and staff. Health departments know about community health resources and can facilitate education agency access to the health care system and services.

Questions related to support for school health services that public health agencies can help answer include:

- Who in your agency can help our nurses develop diabetes and asthma care plans?
- What are the certification requirements for school health personnel?
- What guidance can the health department provide related to the administration of medication to students at school? How can we establish a school-based health center?
- How can we make sure that our students have the necessary immunizations?
- How can we make sure that our students are linked to community healthcare providers?

When it comes to addressing the health of our nation's young people, the public health system is an underutilized resource. Your state or local health department is the place to go for help in building healthy schools.

About NACDD

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) is a national public health association for chronic disease program directors of each state and U.S. territory. Founded in 1988, NACDD links together more than 1,400 members to advocate for preventive policies and programs, encourage knowledge sharing and develop partnerships for health promotion. Since its founding, NACDD has been a national leader in mobilizing efforts to reduce chronic diseases and their associated risk factors through state and community-based prevention strategies. For more information, please visit <http://www.chronicdisease.org>.

¹ *Partnering for Success: How Health Departments Work and How to Work with Health Departments* (the full publication) and one-page summaries describing how public health departments can help schools in 11 specific areas are available at: <http://www.chronicdisease.org/nacdd-initiatives/school-health/publications/Partnering-for-Success>