

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS: How Health Departments Work and How to Work with Health Departments

WHAT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN OFFER SCHOOLS

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, 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:

1. **Data collection and analysis.** Health departments can provide health-related data, and help prioritize solutions, develop programs, and evaluate results.
2. **Assessment tools.** Health departments can provide schools with assessment and monitoring tools to gather their own data, and provide technical assistance for using these tools, help schools analyze and interpret data after they have been gathered, and translate findings for presentation to general audiences.
3. **Strategic planning.** Health departments can assist education departments with developing plans to address health issues.
4. **Strategies that work.** Health departments can help schools implement and evaluate strategies that improve their students' health.
5. **Professional development and conferences.** Health departments can collaborate with education agencies in the organization and presentation of conferences or professional development workshops for teachers, school health professionals, and administrators.
6. **Support for health services.** Health departments can provide support for school nurses and physicians who manage students' illnesses in school.
7. **Resources.** Health departments have access to funding to address health issues, some of which can be best addressed in a school setting. Health and education agencies can partner to submit joint applications for funding proposals, and can collaborate to develop resources.
8. **Credibility on health issues.** As states' chief health authorities, public health departments can provide credibility for schools engaging in initiatives with them.
9. **Community linkages.** Health departments can help education agencies make new connections with other community health resources including hospitals, etc.
10. **Policy and environmental changes.** Health and education agencies can partner to develop and provide policy recommendations for school health program implementation.
11. **Promoting healthy school policies.** Health departments can provide data, policy support, and strategic actions to support the school health policy agenda.

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 these 11 specific areas are available at: <http://www.chronicdisease.org/nacdd-initiatives/school-health/publications/Partnering-for-Success>

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>.