Supports to Advance Emotional Well-Being in Schools

In partnership with Child Trends and Mental Health America, The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), is partnering with State Education Agencies (SEA) and Local Education Agencies (LEA) (i.e., school districts) to advance health equity in schools through supports for developing, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based policies, practices, and programs focused on the emotional well-being of students and staff.

Each year, NACDD engages a cohort of two to four SEAs, their respective State Health Department (SHD) partners, and a minimum of five LEAs collectively across all SEAs' states. Participating LEAs receive mini-grants and participate in a five-step, two-phased process over the course of two school years.

- **Assess**: Conduct an assessment of the needs of students and school staff and mental/behavioral health and social-emotional learning (SEL) supports (e.g., existing partnerships, policies, practices, and programs).
- **Plan**: Develop an action plan based on assessment results and learnings to address gaps in partnerships, policies, practices, and programs, with a focus on the WSCC framework and school priority (e.g., school improvement plan) alignment.
- **Implement**: Execute the action plan to improve social-emotional and school-based mental health for students and staff, with NACDD and partners offering customized support for effective implementation.
- **Learn**: Participate in professional development and technical assistance that includes a Training of Trainers (ToT) cadre, workshops, and evidence-based tools and resources related to SEL competencies, skill development that is culturally responsive, equitable, and inclusive, and student and school staff emotional well-being and mental health.
- **Evaluate**: Evaluate ongoing efforts to sustain action plan activities.

For questions or more information, contact Heidi Milby, Associate Director for the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities, at hmilby@chronicdisease.org.

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National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)

Founded in 1988, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors is a national, nonprofit, professional association. Formerly known as the Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Program Directors, the association began with the CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) to provide a national forum for state chronic disease & health promotion professionals.

Today, we advocate, educate, and provide technical assistance to inform programming and grow chronic disease prevention knowledge, leadership, and capacity among our membership. NACDD promotes social justice and wellbeing so that communities can build healthier futures.

We are member-based, member-driven, and member-led. A national body of thought leaders with 30+ years of experience with one shared vision: **a world where all people reach their full health potential, free from burden of chronic disease.**

Learn more at https://chronicdisease.org/

About the Center

Center for Advancing Healthy Communities

The Center for Advancing Healthy Communities aims to foster healthy communities for all by advancing health equity and eliminating social barriers to health. In an effort to deliver on our commitment to make public health programs more effective, equitable, and inclusive, we provide thought leadership, program technical assistance, training, and professional development. The center's work is focused on a number of areas including food and nutrition services, physical activity, school health, social connection, tobacco control, obesity, and more.

Learn more at https://chronicdisease.org/the-center-for-advancing-healthy-communities/