

How Public Health Can Collaborate with School Districts to Improve Academic Outcomes by Improving Health



10 WSCC Components

- Health Education
- Physical Education & Physical Activity
- Nutrition Environment & Services
- Health Services
- Community Involvement
- Family Engagement
- Employee Wellness
- Counseling, Psychological & Social Services
- Social & Emotional Climate
- Physical Environment

Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model

The WSCC Model expands on the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's (ASCD) Whole Child Approach through collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to address the health and wellness needs of the whole child, and to create environments where students can thrive and achieve academic success in the school environment. Partnering with local public health agencies can assist school districts in fulfilling their school health goals so that their students can achieve optimal academic success. Harris County Public Health (HCPH) hosts a quarterly meeting with school districts in the county, called School Health Leadership Group (SHLG), to provide resources and to foster relationships with, and to support, school district staff.

The following page includes examples from the field of ways school districts in Harris County have incorporated different components of the WSCC model on school campuses.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Impact Team at Harris County Public Health (HCPH) teaches students about healthy eating, physical health and fitness and tobacco and e-cigarette use and also does trainings with school staff. HCPH also teaches students with chronic asthma how to manage their condition.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Healthy Living Matters (HLM) program of HCPH sponsors teachers to be trained in Action Based Learning, and also CATCH trainings for Health and Physical Education teachers to learn how to keep kids moving through virtual instruction, or in-person within physically distanced spaces.

HEALTH SERVICES

HCPH supported school districts in implementing the use of a universal EpiPen when its use was made available by the Texas legislature. HCPH regularly coordinates with health services on infectious diseases such as TB, flu, and now COVID-19. HCPH provides vaccinations and dental services for students.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

HCPH supported interested school districts in attaining their worksite wellness goals. School districts incorporated water distribution centers, blood pressure machines and other health monitoring tools into their staff spaces.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL CLIMATE

Several school districts in Harris County have incorporated trauma-informed care and education into their daily practices on campus. Many districts have made investments into training on how to respond to students in a trauma-informed manner.

COUNSELING, PSYCHOLOGICAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

Houston ISD incorporates Wraparound Resource Specialists on their campuses to address the non-academic needs of students and get them connected to services within, or outside of school, so that they can excel academically unhindered. HCPH has hosted a substance abuse prevention network.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A campus in Pasadena ISD incorporates their students' families into their PE class through Monday Mile events monthly. Students who bring family members to walk the track are given coupons to be used for prizes in their PE classes. HCPH supports school districts by participating in school-hosted health fairs.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

HCPH's Built Environment Unit assessed the walk routes around schools to identify barriers to safe walking or biking and helped work on a Safe Routes to School plan for the Pasadena community.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HLM of HCPH assisted school districts in securing funds for new playground equipment through non-profit partners such as KaBoom! and also helped to recruit community members to build the new playgrounds.

NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES

HLM of HCPH has funded school gardening education for Pasadena ISD staff to support the initiation of their school gardening program.