

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

WHAT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN OFFER SCHOOLS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONFERENCES

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: professional development and conferences.

Teachers need training to deliver health education that helps students develop skills for lifelong healthy living. School nurses need to keep up with new medical developments. School administrators need guidance on implementing new health-related guidelines or policies. Public health agencies inform, educate, and empower people about health issues and have the knowledge base to be able to ensure accuracy of content on key health issues.

Health departments can collaborate with education agencies in the organization and presentation of regional and statewide conferences or local professional development workshops for teachers, school health professionals, and administrators, sharing program models, materials, and health information based on the latest research.

Questions related to professional development and conferences that public health agencies can help to answer include:

- What trainings are available pertaining to a coordinated approach to school health?
- How can we train our teachers to deliver the most up-to-date curriculum on critical health topics?
- What training is available to help our school nurses respond to pressing health problems in our district?
- Where can we find a schedule of upcoming health-related conferences that can strengthen our school health activities?
- Can you help us develop a training program to promote school employee wellness?

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>