

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

WHAT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN OFFER SCHOOLS: STRATEGIC PLANNING

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: strategic planning.

Public health departments can assist education departments with developing plans to address emerging and long-standing health issues in the school community. The work of public health agencies is grounded upon carefully crafted strategic plans that have clearly defined priorities based on community-based data and input from the populations that will be affected by the plans. Strategic planning involves assessment, monitoring, research, and evaluation — all of which are public health functions.

Questions related to strategic planning that public health agencies might help to answer are:

- How can we determine our school community's health priorities?
- What strategies have other communities used to address these health priorities?
- What action steps can be taken to address the community health priorities?
- What evaluation questions do we need to ask to determine how well we are addressing our goals and objectives?

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>