

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

### WHAT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN OFFER SCHOOLS: CREDIBILITY ON HEALTH ISSUES

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*,<sup>1</sup> 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: credibility on health issues.

Public health departments are states' chief health authorities. Engaging in initiatives in partnership with a health department and its numerous contacts can increase the visibility and perceived importance of a health problem or initiative.

Public health agencies can serve as a credible source to help answer questions such as:

- What are the public health implications of competitive foods and beverages in vending machines?
- What evidence can you provide to support the establishment of school-based health centers in our district?

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>.

---

<sup>1</sup> *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>