

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS:

How Health Departments Work and How to Work with Health Departments

WHAT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN OFFER SCHOOLS: STRATEGIES THAT WORK

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: strategies that work.

The public health department can provide a wealth of information that can help schools implement and evaluate strategies that improve their students' health. Public health department staff members can complement education department knowledge through their access to the latest public health research, which can provide new insights and innovative solutions to health problems. They can also provide a "big picture" perspective on key state and local health issues and relevant legislation, including mandates and funding.

Public health agencies can help schools find answers to questions on the best strategies for addressing health issues, such as:

- What is the best strategy for reducing smoking among middle school students?
- What does the latest research say about the impact of health on learning?
- What are examples of legislation that address managing students' chronic health conditions?
- How do we ensure that environmental hazards such as lawn chemicals or mold do not cause or aggravate chronic diseases among our students?
- What procedures should be in place to respond to anaphylactic reactions (potentially fatal allergic reactions)?

When it comes to addressing the health of our nation's young people, the public health system is an underutilized resource. Contact your state or local health department to form a partnership to build healthy kids, healthy schools, and healthy communities.

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>