

Healthy Schools Collective Impact: Theory of Change

Overall approach and outcomes that advance **health equity**, recognize and respond to **differentiated needs**, and help schools meet their **educational goals**

Strategies

Strategies to move forward key areas of change:

- Continue to build statewide systems to collect **data and assess best practices** and celebrate excellence
- Expand implementation of a **continuum of practices** that ensure students have health knowledge, skills and supports
- Support efforts to ensure an adequate number of **qualified staff** and professional development opportunities

Processes that support collective efforts:

- Inclusive **engagement & partnerships**
- Long-term **policy agenda**
- **Communication** on the importance of healthy schools
- **Evaluation/research**
- **Backbone functions**

Interim Outcomes

Building Will

- **Administrator** support
- **Local teams** of community, staff, families, and students leading change
- State and local **policymaker** support
- **Funder** support in HSCI efforts, statewide systems building, and local adoption of best practices

Components of Systems Change

- Alignment of the array of **tools, data, resources, and programs** in and connected to schools
- **Adequate number of school staff** with the capacity to support the components of a healthy school
- Integration of **health into school accountability** systems
- **State and local policies** create incentives for, provide resources to, and support healthy schools

Healthy Schools Collective Impact

- Leveraging **data and evaluation** to inform decision-making
- Diversified and sustainable **funding**
- **Aligned** efforts, resources and data among partners
- High functioning **governance** structure

Systemic Transformations

Increase access to locally appropriate, differentiated, youth friendly and equitable:

- Student **health services**
- **Comprehensive PA** programs
- **Health education**
- **Supportive nutrition environments** and healthy food and beverages
- Approaches that address student **behavioral health needs**
- **Cultures and climates** in schools are supportive of student and staff health and wellness

Goal & Vision

By 2025, all Colorado K-12 public schools provide an **environment and culture** that **integrates health and wellness** equitably for **students and staff**.

So that...

All Colorado youth are healthy and reach their full potential.

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Details from Work Groups

Statewide Data System/Assess Best Practices

Continue to build a statewide system to collect data and assess best practices related to healthy schools and student health and behaviors:

- Define best practices for schools and student outcomes (what defines healthy schools and students)
- Continue to build these systems and promote utilization to identify needs and gaps and inform accountability systems
- Incentivize schools to participate in the data system by recognizing and rewarding healthy schools, by providing actionable data back to schools and communities, and by supporting utilization in accountability systems

Communications, Marketing and Engagement

Elevate the importance of healthy schools by developing marketing and engagement strategies to educate and inspire action from students, families, schools, administrators, and communities:

- Synthesize and disseminate research on connection between health and wellness and academics
- Develop a strategic marketing campaign that hones in on key messages* and local needs
- Engage students, families and communities to address health and wellness in their local schools
- Connect schools to tools and resources that engage community and families in the benefits and availability of healthy school services and programs

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Ensuring an Adequate Number of High Quality Staff

Ensure that there is an adequate number of high-quality staff that has the needed capacity to support the components of a healthy school:

- Provide a high-quality professional development system** (including TA) to build the capacity of staff focusing on the components of the WSCC model
- Support effective preparation programs
- Provide needed tools and resources to staff
- Leverage resources to ensure adequate number of staff are in needed roles
- Ensure all schools have access to a staff person whose role includes a focus on health and wellness

Support Implementation of a Continuum of Practices

Support implementation of a continuum of practices to ensure students are educated on health/wellness, supported by healthy school environments, and have their individual needs met:

- Outline a process for schools, in partnership with youth, families and communities (e.g. local wellness teams), to develop plans that are culturally relevant, incorporate best practices, and identify resources, gaps, strengths, and readiness
- Implement consistent health and wellness education that is aligned with Comp Health and PE state standards and integrated into school day
- Support districts to use a model (like MTSS) to address needs of students
- Support schools with implementing and evaluating their plans

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Long-term policy agenda

Develop a long-term policy agenda to further the components of a healthy school with a broad network of partners:

- Refine short- and long-term policy priorities as initially developed by workgroups
- Include health and wellness in accountability systems (require in UIP planning, educator effectiveness, assessment/testing)
- Require schools to collect and report health and wellness data and assess their needs
- Ensure appropriate staffing levels, certification and needed time for programs or services (e.g., PE class without waivers, PE endorsement, nurse certification, BH services, etc).
- Advocate for financial resources and staffing for health/wellness in schools
- Establish a commission with a level of decision-making authority related to policy
- Support effective implementation of existing health/education policies and work with local districts to enhance their policies

Sustain Healthy Schools Collective Impact

Maintain an effective collective impact process and structures to advance the work over time