

WeTHRIVE! SCHOOL INITIATIVE OVERVIEW



Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child

Schools, parents, community members, public health, health care, and other social service agencies share a common goal of supporting health and academic achievement of youth. By working together, the whole community can ensure that every child in every school in every community is healthy, safe, engaged, and challenged. Schools play a critical role in promoting the health and safety of children and helping them establish lifelong healthy behaviors (CDC, 2015).

Health is Academic

- Health and education affect individuals, society, and the economy and should work together whenever possible.
- Health-related factors like hunger, physical and emotional abuse, and chronic illness can lead to poor school performance.
- Health-risk behaviors like violence, physical inactivity, and early sexual initiation are regularly linked to poor grades and test scores, and lower educational achievement.
- School health strategies can have positive effects on educational outcomes, as well as health-risk behaviors and health outcomes.
- Integrating health services and programs more deeply into the day-to-day life of schools and students represents an untapped tool for raising academic achievement and improving learning.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2015), Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (2016)

WeTHRIVE! School Initiative Goal

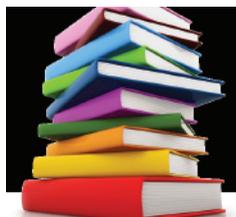
To improve health, safety, and learning for all children through engagement, coordination, and collaboration of school and community partners and resources.

What Your School Can Do

- **Show Support for the Initiative**
Signing the Statement of Support shows the school's commitment to a coordinated approach to improving health and safety for all students in the learning environment.
- **Establish a WeTHRIVE! Team**
The school-based WeTHRIVE! (or wellness) team brings teachers, parents, students, staff, and other partners together to work on strategies that impact health and safety in the learning environment.
- **Review Policies and Practices**
A review of policies and practices that impact health and safety of students will help schools to talk about the strengths that exist, as well as areas for improvement.
- **Develop an Action Plan**
Creating an action plan provides a blueprint for how the school will work towards the creation of a healthy, safe environment where all students can thrive.

Strategies to Improve Health, Safety, and Learning

- Parent, family, and community engagement
- Linkage to social services for at-risk students
- Healthy food options and physical activity throughout the school day
- Safe Routes to School
- Tobacco-free campus and idle-free policies
- Outdoor classrooms and hands-on learning opportunities (e.g. school garden)
- Employee wellness
- Violence and drug prevention
- Youth asset development



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.