



Oklahoma Turning Point Council

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH INNOVATION

Health Education in Schools



Oklahoma Turning Point Council (OTPC)

- OTPC is an independent statewide council focused on education and advocacy efforts aimed at improving Oklahoma's health status
- The Turning Point philosophy is anchored by two fundamental convictions:
 1. Communities have inherent strengths
 2. Everyone has a stake in public health



Oklahoma Turning Point Council (OTPC)

- The OTPC provides guidance and receives feedback from community partnerships on local and state policy issues that may impact health improvement efforts.
- OTPC sponsors community informational meetings on primary policy objectives and sponsors an annual Policy Day to engage the community in the development of primary policy objectives and advocacy efforts.



Educate and advocate for the increased availability of health education tools and resources for schools



Every Child Succeeds Act

- In December 2015, President Obama signed the Every Child Succeeds Act, replacing the No Child Left Behind Act¹
- “Schools are one of the most efficient systems for reaching children and youth to provide health services and programs, as approximately 95 percent of all U.S. children and youth attend school” (ASCD, 2014, p 3)



The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model

- Regards the collaboration between learning and health as fundamental, and engages students as active participants in the learning process²
- Combines and builds on traditional the Coordinated School Health approach and the Whole Child framework²



The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model

- WSCC is not a new program to add onto schools overflowing plates, but collaborative approach to managing new and existing health related programs and services in schools and the surrounding community⁴
- The WSCC model builds on and expands CSH's 8 elements into 10 distinct components²
- The WSCC components work collectively to improve students' knowledge, behaviors, attitudes and skills in health, as well as academic and social outcomes⁴



The 10 Components of the WSCC Model

- **Health Education**
 - Cultivate health literate youth who have the ability to promote and enhance their health using basic health concepts, personal and social skills⁴
- **Physical Education & Physical Activity**
 - Develop high quality programs that increase physical fitness and responsibility while encourage students to value lifelong physical activity⁴



The 10 Components of the WSCC Model

- **Health Services**
 - encourage schools to work with community health agencies and professionals to provide services to address health issues that may affect academic performance⁴
- **Nutrition Environment & Services**
 - Studies show that when children's basic nutritional and fitness needs are met they attain higher achievement levels²



The 10 Components of the WSCC Model

- **Counseling, Physiological & Social Services**
 - Assist schools in providing additional support to students who are experiencing academic failure as a result of emotional challenges brought about by situations within or outside of school⁴
- **Employee Wellness**
 - Teachers who participated in health promotion program focusing on exercise, stress management and nutrition reported a better ability to handle job stress and a higher general sense of well-being⁶



The 10 Components of the WSCC Model

- **Social & Emotional Climate**
 - Develop and maintain a healthy, stable and safe environment to facilitate learning⁴
- **Physical Environment**
 - Enhance a healthy school environment that allows students to learn effectively⁴



The 10 Components of the WSCC Model

- **Community Involvement**
 - Create partnerships with community agencies and businesses to increase the ability of schools to meet the needs of its diverse student body⁴
- **Family Engagement**
 - Place high emphasis on the critical role of family engagement⁴



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Benefits of the WSCC Model

Schools:⁶

- Schools districts save money
- Improved staff morale
- Higher graduation rates

Students:⁶

- Decreased engagement of risky behaviors
- Improved grade point average
- Less fighting and disciplinary referrals



Benefits of the WSCC Model

- Research shows comprehensive health education and social skills programs for high-risk students will improve school and test performance, attendance and school connectedness⁶
- Healthy students learn better and are more likely to have higher levels of education³



Current Legislation

- School districts are required to complete self assessments on physical education and best practices for each physical education assessed (HB 2722)
- Health education required to be taught in public schools during 7th or 8th grade, with a minimum list of 10 units from incorporated for each textbook (HB 2909)
- School districts are required to complete comprehensive self-assessments on their physical education programs and the report made available to the public in a form on the State Department of Education's website (SB 1309)



Call to Action!

- Sign your organization to the [Oklahoma Turning Point Council's School Health Letter of Support](#)
- Educate and advocate for the increased availability of health education tools and resources for schools
- Support updates to the Oklahoma State Department of Education's [Health Standards](#) & [Physical Education Standards](#)



Call to Action!

- [Join OTPC](#) and create partnerships with advocacy groups in your community and state to support school health
- [Register to vote!](#)



For additional information please visit

www.okturningpoint.org or

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References

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3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Health and academic achievement.
4. Fetro J.V., Givens C. & Carroll, K. (2010). Coordinated school health: Getting it all together. *Health and Learning*, 67(4) 32-37. Retrieved from <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec09/vol67/num04/Coordinated-School-Health@-Getting-It-All-Together.aspx>
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6. Vermont Department of Health. (n.d.) Summary of selected evidence-based research from healthy kids learn better and making the connection: Health and student achievement. Retrieved from <http://www.healthvermont.gov/local/school/documents/HealthAchievement.pdf>