

Partnership Opportunities



The Mississippi State Department of Health's (MSDH) Office of Preventive Health in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Healthy Schools have partnered to promote school health based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child" model. Together they are bringing health services and programs into the daily activities of schools and students to enhance academic performance while decreasing chronic conditions.

We are looking for 15 Mississippi school districts interested in partnering with MSDH on a five-year initiative to implement healthy school nutrition and physical activity initiatives. **This partnership will ensure that your school district meets all requirements of the MS Healthy Students Act.**

Read below to learn more about the initiative and how your district would benefit from this partnership.

Exciting Partnership Opportunities

for School-Based Prevention Education

- Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- School Districts partner with the Mississippi State Department of Health and Mississippi Department of Education
- Districts receive support to implement evidence-based strategies that promote physical activity and a healthy school nutrition environment

About the Initiative

This initiative is designed to build the capacity of Mississippi school districts to develop and implement sustainable program activities which :

- ✓ Create healthy school nutrition environments, including sodium reduction strategies
- ✓ Develop, implement and evaluate recess and multi-component physical education policies
- ✓ Establish, implement and evaluate the coordinated school physical activity program

Program activities are also expected to reduce chronic absenteeism and dropout, while improving school connectedness and academic achievement.

Benefits to School Districts

By participating in this partnership, your district will become an integral part of a cutting-edge initiative that will allow your school to:

- ✓ Ensure it is in compliance with all state mandates and requirements
- ✓ Receive the latest resources, research and best practices
- ✓ Receive no cost, one-on-one technical assistance with activities such as implementing and conducting effective school health councils, implementing health initiatives, and providing effective professional development
- ✓ Establish healthy school environments for students and staff
- ✓ Network with other partner school districts about successes, challenges and strategies for implementation
- ✓ Adopt and implement sustainable school-based policies, programs and practices to support nutrition and physical activity beyond the funding period

State Commitments

MSDH's commitment to the 15 partner school districts is to:

- Help create linkages between schools and community partners to implement nutrition and physical activity initiatives.
- Dedicate a full-time School Health Coordinator at MSDH who will be responsible for spearheading this initiative and supporting the 15 partner districts.
- Provide professional development opportunities, technical assistance, research and tools on:
 - Shared-use agreements
 - Model policies
 - Building and sustaining effective school health councils
 - Nutrition, including sodium reduction
 - Physical activity
 - Implementing health initiatives at schools
 - School Health Index
- Facilitate an ongoing learning collaborative among partner districts' teams to share successful strategies.
- Facilitate access to state and national experts.
- Provide technical assistance on utilizing data for decision-making and program improvement.

District Commitments

The 15 partner school districts will agree to:

- Develop or maintain an active School Health Council in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act.
- Attend professional development opportunities offered by the MSDH on required areas, including:
 - Physical activity
 - Nutrition
- Implement initiatives and/or adopt policies that promote nutrition and a healthy physical environment.
- Track policy adoption and monitor policy implementation for nutrition and physical activity.
- Participate in required data collection including the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS) and School Health Profiles.



For more Information, please contact:

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MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Preventive Health

