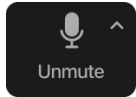
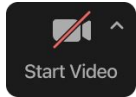


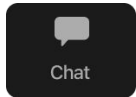
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”



- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov



Safe and Healthy Schools Community of Practice Call



October 22, 2026

The “How” to Create a Healthy School Environment



Objectives

- **Recognize** School Wellness Policies' impact on community health.
- **Link** Coordinated School Health components to a healthier school environment.
- **Outline** the 6-step process for healthy school environments.
- **Identify** key School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) members.
- **Create** an action plan to build a SHAC.



Learning and Health

Improved Academic Achievement

Higher grades & graduation rates

Enhanced focus & cognition

Increased attendance & engagement



Better Health

Reduced illness & absenteeism

Improved mental health & resilience

Lifelong healthy habits

Alignment with Education Policy

Integrating school health frameworks into policy structures:

- **Federal Policy Mandates:**
 - ESSA & USDA Standards
- **School Level & SHAC**
 - Local Execution
- **District Wellness Policy**
 - Operational Guidance
- **School Level & SHAC**
 - Local Execution



Alignment Flow Through

Aligning health objectives and policies across all education levels:

- **Federal**
 - National Framework
- **State**
 - Policy & Standards
- **District**
 - Resource & Guidance
- **School/SHAC**
 - Local Execution



Federal Mandates

Key requirements for school wellness policies under National School Lunch Program (NSLP) guidelines.

- Origin
 - Mandated by the 2004 WIC Reauthorization Act and the 2010 Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act
- Stakeholders
 - Parents, students, PE teachers, health staff, admins, and public
- Policy Scope
 - Include specific goals
- Nutrition
 - Smart snacks and food/beverages sold at school
- Evaluations



State Policy-Louisiana

Requires local school boards to establish a School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) per R.S. 17:17.1.

- Purpose: Advises on physical activity, health education, nutrition, and wellness.
- Appointments: Made by the local school board.
- Composition: Includes student, parent, and community representatives.
- Compensation: Volunteer-based with no pay.



District School Health Advisory Council

Key statutory duties and operational mandates for local advisory councils

Council Formation

Appoint parent & community council

Health & PE

Advise on student health & PE

Policy Oversight

Oversee nutrition, activity & recess

Vending Rules

Monitor vending compliance

Fitness Review

Review fitness assessments



Local Wellness Policy

Guidance & Scope

Guides district efforts to create healthy, supportive school environments promoting student wellness.

Federal Requirement

Mandatory for districts in federal Child Nutrition Programs (Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act).

ESSA Integration

Integrates school health into local policy to put Every Student Succeeds Act provisions into action.



Poll Question

Does your **district** have a SHAC that advises the board on physical activity for students, physical and health education, nutrition, and overall student health?



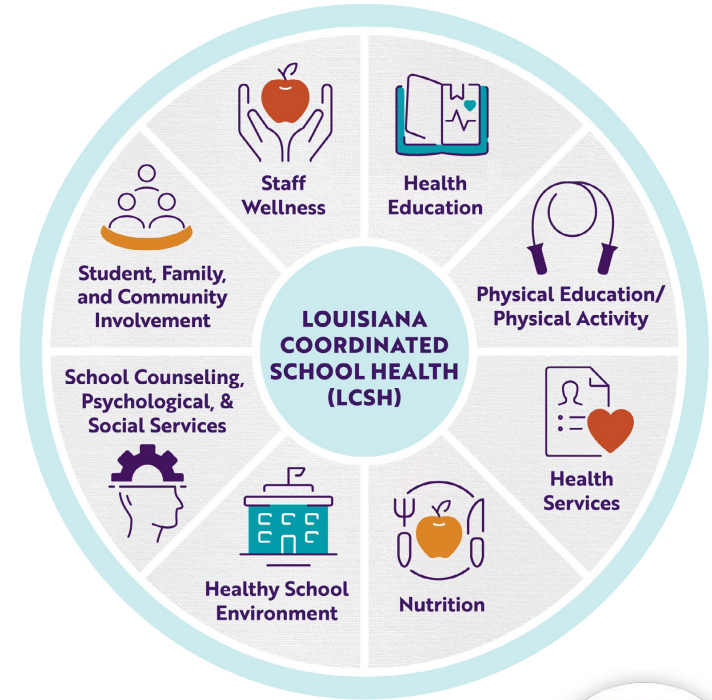
Louisiana Targeted Coordinated School Health Program



Targeted Coordinated School Health Program (CSH)

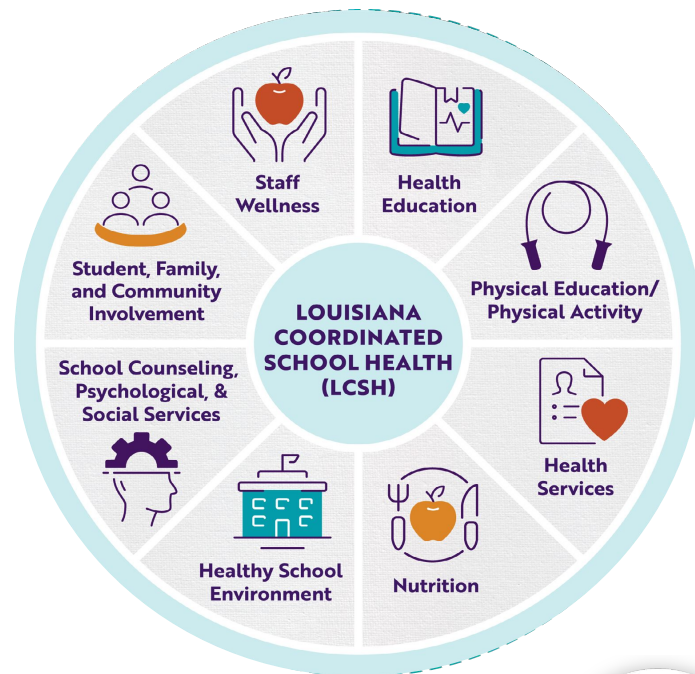
Established to reduce childhood obesity, the program unites school staff, students, families, and community members to assess health needs, set priorities, and drive school health activities.

[Louisiana Coordinated School Health Webpage](#)



Targeted Coordinated School Health Program

- Places the child at the center
- Takes a comprehensive approach to supporting learning and health
- Calls for greater alignment across sectors



District School Health Advisory Council

Local school boards must appoint a community- and parent-represented school health advisory council to advise on student well-being:

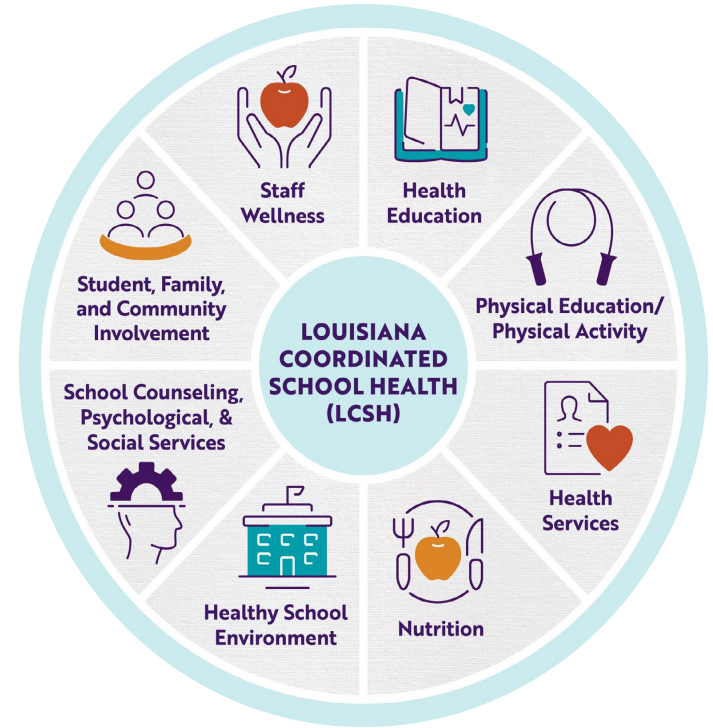
- Student Health
- Physical Education & Activity
- Nutrition
- Vending Compliance
- Fitness Assessments
- Recess Policies



District Level SHAC

Multidisciplinary Council

- Ensures all 8 health components are represented
- Connects district stakeholders and community
- Drives effective school health policy execution



Examples of SHAC Team Members

- Parents and Students
- School Counselors and Social Workers
- Law Enforcement and Emergency Support
- School Administrators
- PE and Health Teachers
- Community and Business Partners
- Health Services Staff
- Child Nutrition and Food Services
- School Board Members



District Level SHAC

- Identify & Address Gaps
 - District health policies
 - District health programs
 - Processes with appropriate resources (example-expanding school medicaid billing)
- Support Schools
 - Building culture of health
 - Overcoming challenges
 - Celebrating successes
- Update School Board on District and School Health Improvements



Poll Question

Does your **school** have a team (e.g., school health council, committee) that offers guidance on developing policies or coordinates activities on health topics and collaborates with the District School Health Advisory Council?



6 Step Process and Building Your Team



6 Step Process



STEP 01

Build Support

Engage key stakeholders and build buy-in across the community.



STEP 02

Assess Policies & Practices

Evaluate current school health programs and identify opportunities.



STEP 03

Develop Your Action Plan

Define specific health goals, timelines, and measurable outcomes.



STEP 04

Explore Resources

Identify toolkits, funding, and support networks to assist implementation.



STEP 05

Take Action

Execute planned wellness initiatives and track ongoing progress.



STEP 06

Celebrate Success

Recognize achievements, share results, and plan for sustainability.



School Level Health Team

To drive sustainable health changes, schools should form a wellness committee for students and staff to:

- 6 Step Process: Supporting the school environment
- Vision & Goals: Setting school health goals
- Involvement: Promoting student, parent, and community engagement
- Programs & Policies: Managing programs and policies
- Progress Reporting: Updating the district SHAC on wellness progress



Let's Make Our School a Healthy School!

Join the Healthy Schools Program

Move through the 6-step process together with regular quarterly meetings.

- **1st Meeting** (Months 1–2): Build team & start Assessment
- **2nd Meeting** (Months 3–4): Advance Assessment & Plan
- **3rd Meeting** (Months 5–6): Check progress on goals
- **4th Meeting** (Months 7–9): Celebrate & plan next year



Next Steps: Tools to Develop Action Planning

- **Action Plan Templates:** Formats to set goals, timelines, and roles for key priorities.
- **Assessment Worksheets:** Tools to evaluate wellness policies and target priority areas.
- **Resource Library:** Guides, sample policies, and best practices for health teams.
- **Progress Tracking:** Criteria to track annual milestones and align wellness policies.





Questions?

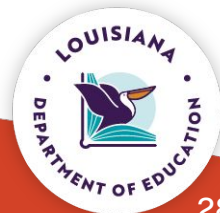
Safe and Healthy School Reminders



Emergency Stock Medications

- Forms for standing orders can be found on the LDH website
- Current orders expire on April 1, 2027
- Medications covered are Naloxone, Albuterol, and Epinephrine

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



National Bullying Prevention Month

The month of October provides an opportunity for school leaders and school-based professionals to:

- Promote student belonging.
- Reinforce a schoolwide commitment to safe, supportive learning environments.
- Strengthen prevention and response practices to address bullying.
- Ensure concerns are addressed appropriately and timely.
- Connect students and families with school and community-based resources.
- Collaborate across the school community to promote student safety.

Charter Schools-Medicaid

Charter LEA's that undergo a name change or transition to a new Charter Management Company are required to:

- Notify the state of Louisiana Medicaid Fiscal Intermediary/Gainwell Technology Provider Enrollment Unit and Louisiana Department of Health, immediately
- Update the [Provider Enrollment File Form](#)
- Complete the [Link/Unlink and Working Relationship Form](#)
- Mail forms with an original signature to Gainwell Provider Enrollment Unit

School Physical Activity Award 2026-2027



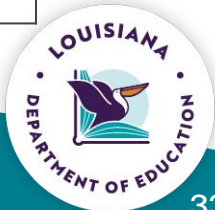
School Physical Activity Award

- The Louisiana Department of Education honors exemplary public elementary and secondary schools through the School Physical Activity Award program for making physical activity an intentional part of the school day.
- Healthy and physically active students achieve better grades, attendance, cognitive performance, and classroom behaviors.
- Schools play a vital role in offering regular physical activity before, during, and after school.



Timeline

Nomination Process	Open through October 16, 2026	Stakeholders nominate outstanding schools
Application Process	October 20, 2026-January 21, 2027	School systems may submit multiple school applications for consideration
Informational Overview Call	October 21, 2026	The Department will provide an overview of the application, timeline, and submission process
State-level Applications Due	January 21, 2027	Nominees, schools, and school systems complete application
Finalists Announced/ Recognition	Spring 2027	Finalists and the School Physical Activity Award honoree(s) will be recognized and celebrated through a Department recognition event.



Safe and Healthy Schools Team

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susan.dupont@la.gov	Louisiana Healthy Schools Initiative, School Nursing,
healthyschools@la.gov	Safe and Healthy Schools questions, Occupational and Physical Therapy, Professional Development and Technical Assistance Support





Monthly Call Slides

Monthly call presentations are available in the [School System Planning Library](#).

- Office of Career and College Readiness
 - Healthy Communities
 - Healthy Schools Community of Practice

Schedules, access links and information for the Department's webinars can be found in the [LDOE Weekly Newsletter](#) and [School System Support Calendar](#).

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.





Questions?