

WHAT

Healthy students more consistently attend school, perform better, and graduate at higher rates than peers with unmet health needs. Health-focused policies and programs at schools can help support student health and wellbeing. In 2017, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) partnered to analyze the quality of local school district wellness policies. This report summarizes the results of this analysis on your district's policy and highlights opportunities for strengthening it, focusing on areas where improvements to written policies were considered to be relatively straightforward. A total of 8 districts were analyzed, and your district's results are compared to the group average for reference.

WHY

Recent changes to federal mandates for local school wellness policies have required districts to update existing policies. To help districts, DPH developed a policy scoring instrument, based on existing model policy language, school wellness policy review and implementation tools (WellSAT 2.0, School Health Index), and expert consultation, to identify and prioritize districts' potential technical assistance needs around compliance with federal requirements and recommended national best practices, such as alignment with the Whole School, Whole Community and Whole Child Model.

HOW

DPH staff collected district wellness policies via district websites (Jan 2017). For this analysis, DPH reviewed the following documents: (1) The "local school wellness policy" or BP5030, (2) the wellness policy administrative regulation or AR5030, and (3) supplemental documents including any district, state or model policies referenced within the text of the local school wellness policy.

POLICY STRENGTHS

- Includes language indicating that free drinking water is made available during meal times.
- Contains language addressing active transport for all students
- Contains language indicating specific plans to develop partnerships with community groups and organizations.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand Smart Snack standards to include foods and beverages served during the extended school day
- Add language about promoting healthier food and beverage choices
- Add language about staff wellness programs

Scoring

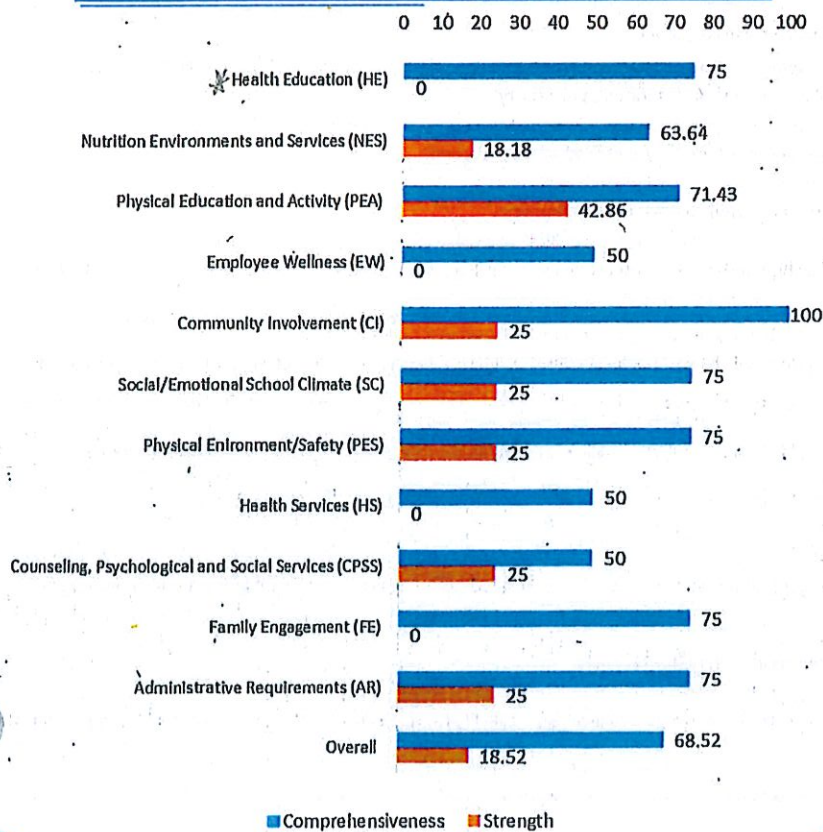
Each indicator is assigned a score between 0 and 2. A score of 0 indicates that the indicator is not addressed in the text of the policy, a score of 1 indicates that there are opportunities for improvement and a score of 2 indicates that the item meets or exceeds expectations.

Each domain has been given both a comprehensive score and a strength score, calculated by averaging the scores of the indicators in each domain and multiplying by 100.

Comprehensive score - the total number of indicators receiving a score of 1 or 2 in a domain/total number of indicators in that domain, and then multiplied by 100.

Strength score - the total number of indicators receiving a score of 2 in a domain/total number of indicators in that domain, and then multiplied by 100.

COMPREHENSIVENESS AND STRENGTH SCORES, BY FOCUS AREA



WELLNESS POLICY SCORES COMPARED TO OTHER DISTRICTS¹

	Comprehensiveness	Strength
HE	—	—
NES	+	—
PEA	+	+
EW	+	—
CI	+	+
SC	+	+
PES	+	+
HS	+	—
CPSS	+	+
FE	+	=
AR	+	+
Overall	+	+

- Higher than average score +
- Lower than average score —
- Equal to average score =

LACOE funded comparison districts

For more information on DPH's review process, please contact Megala Sivashanmugam at msivashanmugam@ph.lacounty.gov