School Health Environment

A positive school health environment can aid in improving overall school wellness. Modeling healthy behaviors is one of the best ways to improve student health as research shows that children learn from modeling safe and healthy behavior. An environment that is rich in health promotion, clear communication and opportunities for health education will have a positive impact on students' well-being. Requiring that students have routine health visits with a primary care provider and that those results are shared with the school health system can also improve health outcomes.

- Share BMI results with parents using direct communication methods.
- Partner with outside health organizations to conduct mandated health screenings.
- Provide education to students and parents on vaccine requirements and recommendations
- Provide education to students on substance use/abuse.
- Provide education to students on sexual health.
- Encourage active student involvement in a school Wellness Council.

Visit our website to view the "BMI Counseling Toolkit," which includes BMI Screening Letter for parent communication and tools that schools can implement.

The following websites provide information on school health environment:

- <u>Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)</u>
- Mandated School Health Program
- <u>School Wellness Committees</u>

