

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING TOOL: LESSONS FROM WELLNESS TEAMS

Working to Achieve the Healthy CPS Health Services Badge



HEALTH SERVICES

What is the “Health Services” Badge?

The Health Services badge measures whether schools are providing student access to healthcare services that impact learning.

What is this Handout?

This handout includes basic information about the Health Services badge, key resources associated with the Badge, and recommendations from Wellness Teams who have been working to achieve this Badge.

Did you know?

- **Addressing vision problems** improves students’ sensory perceptions, cognition, and school connectedness.¹
- The **prevalence of diabetes** (both type 1 and type 2) **is rising** in children - increasing the need for diabetes management supports throughout the school day.²
- In addition to the ability of students to self-carry inhalers, research suggests that schools should focus on **educating** children about asthma and inhaler use, **creating** supportive environments for self-carry, and fostering **consistent implementation and communication about asthma policy among schools and families.**³

WHAT DO SCHOOLS NEED TO EARN THE HEALTH SERVICES BADGE?

- ★ The Student Medical Information form is distributed to all students and parents at the beginning of each school year.
 - [Student Health & School Forms Booklet](#)
 - School-Based Dental Consent Form: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
 - School-Based Vision Consent: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- ★ The school achieves 90% medical compliance by October 15.
- ★ Students with asthma, diabetes, allergies, or seizures are allowed to carry and self-administer any necessary medication.
- ★ School’s Medicaid Designee assists families with acquiring health insurance and accessing healthy food through the state (SNAP/LINK) program by collaborating with their assigned Benefits Coordinator.
 - [SNAP/ Medicaid Assistance Request Form](#)
- ★ The school participates in the CPS Vision Exam program.
- ★ The school participates in vision screenings for students in the required grades (PK, K, 2, 8, new to the district, IEP).
 - Resource: [Vision Program Parent Letter \(Pg. 12\)](#)
- ★ The school participates in hearing screenings for students in the required grades (PK, K, 1, 2, 3, new to the district, IEP).

TIPS FOR WELLNESS TEAMS IN ACHIEVING THE HEALTH SERVICES BADGE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- 1 Leverage relationships and communications channels with families.** Ensure that messages to families about medical compliance, including timelines and deadlines, are consistently delivered by different staff members (teachers, counselors, etc.) and timed strategically.
- 2 Partner with community service providers.** Coordinate partnerships with local hospitals to access mobile providers to visit the school to help meet medical compliance requirements, including student vaccinations and annual physicals, and provide access to sexual and reproductive health resources.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



- 3 Delegate tasks to key individuals.** Balance the delegation of clear roles and responsibilities with the need for teamwork and a willingness to jump in and assist as tasks arise, especially on screening days. Delegating a point person on screening/exam days ensures a smooth process for mobile providers and school staff.
- 4 Communicate early and often.** Work with families and caregivers to ensure that students complete physicals, immunizations, and forms long before the Fall deadline.

TROUBLE SHOOTING



- 5 Evaluate school specific challenges and identify potential solutions.** Consider the characteristics and needs of your school community when communicating and distributing health information.
- 6 Utilize CPS and OSHW resources.** Collaborate with the technical assistance team and Healthy CPS Network Specialist to connect families to neighborhood specific health resources.



Have you used these Healthy CPS Resources?

Healthy CPS website resources:

- [Healthy CPS Checklist](#)
- [Wellness Team Guidance](#)
- [COVID Wellness Team Guidance](#)
- [Health Services Landing Page](#)
- [Healthy CPS Preparation Guide](#)
- [Why Healthy CPS?](#)
- Healthy CPS Hotline: 773-553-KIDS (5437)

Health Services Supports:

- [School-based Health Center Locator](#)
- Hearing & Vision Screenings: 773-533-1873
- School-Based Vision Contact: 733-535-8674
 - FAQ: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- School-based Dental: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [CPS Children and Family Benefits Unit \(CBFU\)](#)
- Project CHAT: CPS partners with the Chicago Department of Public Health and Planned Parenthood of Illinois to provide education and testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea in CPS high schools. Various high schools participate and offer optional testing. For more information, please visit chataboutit.org.

Where did this information come from?

Virtual discussion groups with eleven Wellness Teams were conducted in spring of 2020 by researchers at the Policy, Practice, and Prevention Research Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago who is partnering with CPS' Office of Student Health and Wellness to support implementation of Healthy CPS strategies. A total of 45 individuals participated in the groups, including principals, assistant principals, classroom teachers, PE/Health teachers, counselors, nurses, and other support staff members. Discussions lasted approximately 60 minutes and were recorded and transcribed. Transcripts were analyzed and key themes associated with each of the four badges were identified.

References

1. Basch CE. Vision and the Achievement Gap Among Urban Minority Youth. *Journal of School Health*. 2011;81(10):599-605. doi:[10.1111/j.1746-1561.2011.00633.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1746-1561.2011.00633.x)
2. Jackson CC, Albanese-O'Neill A, Butler KL, et al. Diabetes Care in the School Setting: A Position Statement of the American Diabetes Association. *Diabetes Care*. 2015;38(10):1958. doi:[10.2337/dc15-1418](https://doi.org/10.2337/dc15-1418)
3. Volerman A, Kim TY, Sridharan G, et al. A Mixed-methods Study Examining Inhaler Carry and Use among Children at School. *J Asthma*. 2020;57(10):1071-1082. doi:[10.1080/02770903.2019.1640729](https://doi.org/10.1080/02770903.2019.1640729)
4. Chicago Health Atlas. Accessed January 13, 2021. <https://www.chicagohealthatlas.org/indicators/school-based-health-services---dental>

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