

## Healthy Schools Program FAQs

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### *[About Healthy Schools Program](#)*

#### **What are the key Healthy Schools Program objectives?**

The Healthy Schools Program focuses on:

- **Nutrition-** making healthier foods and beverages available in school venues, such as vending machines and cafeterias
- **Physical Activity-** increasing opportunities for students to exercise and play during and after school
- **Staff Wellness-** providing resources for teachers and staff to become healthy role models

#### **What tools and resources do schools receive as part of the Healthy Schools Program?** Participating schools will receive access to:

- **Tools:** Customized action plans, implementation kits, integration ideas, ways to create community buy-in, and access to our resource database
- **Support:** Phone and e-assistance, online tools, trainings, and newsletters
- **Promising Practices:** Success stories, best practices, and opportunities to collaborate with other schools
- **National Recognition:** Some schools will receive Alliance recognition online and in print

#### **What are the Healthy Schools Recognition Criteria?**

These criteria serve a guide to schools that want to build healthier school environments. They are based on evidence-based and measurable standards for healthy schools. They are aligned with USDA guidelines and the CDC School Health Index. The criteria emphasize:

- Foods offered as part of the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs
- Food and beverages offered to children through competitive food programs in schools
- Quality physical and health education programs
- Physical activity programs
- After-school programs that incorporate physical activity and offer children healthy snacks
- Staff wellness programs

The Healthy Schools Recognition Criteria are available on our website at

[www.HealthierGeneration.org/HSPCriteria](http://www.HealthierGeneration.org/HSPCriteria).

### **What is the difference between the Healthy Schools Builder and the School Health Index?**

The Healthy Schools Builder guides schools through the process of developing a healthier school environment that promotes physical activity and healthy eating as a means to reduce the prevalence of childhood overweight and obesity. The School Health Index casts a wider lens on a healthy school environment and also examines environmental factors that affect injury, violence, tobacco use, and asthma. Both tools are based on best practices and both can be used in tandem with each other.

### **How will the Healthy Schools Program impact our school's budget?**

The Healthy Schools Program helps schools build healthier school environments for students and staff ***without negatively impacting their budgets***. The Healthy Schools Program will work to provide resources to offset the financial cost of implementing healthy changes, but there may inevitably be some costs to the school. Cost containment and saving efforts include:

- Business assistance to help schools improve the quality of food offerings, without losing revenue. In some cases, the changes actually increase revenue
- National buyers' cooperatives with food and fitness companies
- Participation in the Healthy Schools program is free

### **How is the Healthy Schools Program funded?**

The Healthy Schools Program is being funded by a generous grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Alliance is working to secure additional funding to expand reach of the Healthy Schools Program to more schools across the country.

### **Registration**

#### **How can my school register for the Healthy Schools Program?**

The Healthy Schools Builder and the official online registration process to join the Alliance's Healthy Schools Program are available on our website at

[www.healthiergeneration.org/HSB](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/HSB)

#### **Which schools can register for the Healthy Schools Program?**

Any school – public, private or charter- in the United States can become a part of the Healthy Schools Program. All schools will have access to the Healthy Schools Builder, web-based and telephone support and assistance, and be eligible to apply for recognition. Start now by signing on to [www.HealthierGeneration.org/HSB](http://www.HealthierGeneration.org/HSB)!

#### **Can private schools sign up?**

Yes, the Healthy Schools Program is open to both public and private schools.

**Is there a cost to participate in the Healthy Schools Program and/or Healthy Schools Builder?**

No, our resources and support are available at no cost to you and your school.

**How long will our school be considered a member of the Healthy Schools Program?**

Once your school is registered, you will be considered a member unless you ask to be removed as a member.

**We have a high school and middle school in the same building, what should we do?**

You may register as one school and the Healthy Schools Builder will guide you through the rest.

**I'm the person that is supposed to be registering my school for the Healthy Schools Program, but I received the error message:**

*Thank you for your interest in the Healthy Schools Builder! Did you know that your school has already been registered for the HSB?*

To find out who registered your school, please call 1-888-KID-HLTH or e-mail [HSB@HealthierGeneration.org](mailto:HSB@HealthierGeneration.org). Please be sure to include your contact information, including full school name, school address, and the best way to reach you.

**I never received the activation E-mail, can you resend it?**

Yes, please e-mail [HSB@HealthierGeneration.org](mailto:HSB@HealthierGeneration.org) requesting activation of your account. Also, you may want to check the SPAM folder in your E-mail box, the activation E-mail may have been trapped there (many districts have SPAM blockers enabled). If you would like the activation email sent to another address, just let us know and we will be happy to forward the email.

***Hands-On Technical Assistance Schools (Pilot Schools)***

**What is a Pilot School?**

No, "pilot" or "hands-on technical assistance" school refers to those schools that are working towards building a healthier school environment with the support of an Alliance Relationship Manager. Schools that sign up now are part of our Virtual Program and will have the full support of our Virtual Support Team and resources.

**Where are Pilot Schools?**

We are currently providing hands-on technical assistance to 230 schools in 14 states. The schools are located in Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Over time, we hope to be able to extend this service to more schools in the current states and in other places throughout the country.

***School Recognition and Resources***



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### **How will participating schools be recognized?**

Schools that reach specific benchmarks towards creating a healthier school environment will receive corresponding recognition – Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Innovation Awards will be awarded to schools that demonstrate new and creative innovations in one area of our recognition program, such as physical education or afterschool programs.

### **More Questions?**

Please call 1-888-KID-HLTH or email [Schools@HealthierGeneration.org](mailto:Schools@HealthierGeneration.org)