Union County Public Schools NC
School Health Advisory Council
2026-27

Union County Public Schools NC – School Health Advisory Council

CHECKLIST

The Union County Public Schools Student Health Advisory Council requires:

- Complete Triennial Assessment of policy.
- Conduct an assessment using a research-based tool
- Complete the Annual Healthy Active Children Compliance Survey
- Coordinate a School Health Council with appropriate stakeholders and community partners

Steps to achieve the above requirements:

- ☐ Review the Union County Public Schools Student Wellness Policy annually
- ☐ Utilize the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model as the foundation of the School Health Advisory Council and School Health Program https://www.cdc.gov/whole-school-community-child/about/index.html
- ☐ Develop a School Health Advisory Council composing of individuals from the following eight components of the WSCC model: Health Education; Physical Education & Physical Activity; Nutrition Environment & Services; Health Services; Counseling, Psychological, & Social Services; Social & Emotional Climate; Physical Environment; Employee Wellness; Family Engagement; and Community Involvement.
- ☐ Provide periodic reports to the Board of Education regarding the status of goals set by the SHAC members.
- ☐ Set a meeting schedule each school year (at least four times a year is recommended)
- ☐ Complete a school assessment (School Health Index can be completed by signing up with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation https://www.healthiergeneration.org/)
- ☐ Develop an action plan
- ☐ Share action plan and wellness policy with stakeholders
- ☐ Evaluate progress by reviewing and revising action plan (recommendation annually)

Resources:

Union County Public Schools – School Nutrition Services Department Webpage:
https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/nutrition

Union County Public Schools – School Health Advisory Council Wellness Policy:

https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/ucps/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#

Assessment Tools

School Health Index
Healthy Active Children Compliance Survey
Alliance for a Healthier Generation
North Carolina Healthy Schools
Action for Healthy Kids

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ACTION PLAN

Note: Evaluation of progress by reviewing and revising action plans will be implemented annually.

Healthy Active Children Policy requires:

- Each LEA shall maintain a current Local Wellness Policy and the most recent assessment of progress with implementation of the policy and submit as requested to NCDPI.
- The local School Health Advisory Council shall inform and update the public about the content, implementation, evaluation and compliance of the Local Wellness Policy and the Healthy Active Children Policy.

2026-27 School Year

GOAL 1: Expand community awareness regarding substance use disorder and nicotine/vaping use in Union County, NC with a focus on school-aged children within Union County Public Schools.
Objective 1 -

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Union County Public Schools and the community will conduct events on various aspects of substance and tobacco use, focusing on the rising use of vaping and substance use disorder among youth. Co-Leads: Stephanie Starr, Director of Community Support and Outreach, UCHD; Kasha Giddins, UCPS Student Support; and Wendy Nielsen, UCPS Director of School Nursing, Christina Neal , Behavioral Health Collaborative Program Manager	- Establish a baseline and monitor trends in UCPS Disciplinary Referrals related to drug, nicotine & vaping. - Update UCPS Health Education Curriculum to reflect current trends in substance use and nicotine/vaping. - Partner with community resources to provide stakeholder education. - Collaborate with UCPS school-based leadership to identify opportunities for student, parent, and staff education related to relevant risky teen behaviors, including vaping and substance use. - Collaborate with secondary UCPS school leadership to identify school-based champions to initiate a variety of initiatives to address the vaping epidemic and ensure student support systems are implemented to meet needs.

GOAL 2: Strengthen mental health support for UCPS student population.

Objective 1 -

Action Steps	Methods for Measuring Implementation
Continue to build relationships among the various Student Support Team members to allow focus on students most in need of compressive services to address mental health and academic engagement needs. Assigned staff in each school building will be part of the crisis response team. Co-Leads: Kasha Giddins, Student Support Director; Christina Neal, Behavioral Health Collaborative Program Manager; Katrina Reyes, Lead Mental Health Therapist; Dan McCloskey, Lead School Counselor; Moira Hancock, Lead Counselor; Belle Walker, Lead School Social Worker and EC School Social worker; Kelly Clark RN, School Nurse Supervisor	- Communication among UCPS cabinet and local school level leadership as well as various team members to focus on the operationalization of the Student Support model at the school level. - Student support teams at the local school level will meet 1-2 x per month. Student Support Team membership at the school level includes School Counselors, School Nurse, School Social Worker, School Psychologist, and Mental Health Therapist. - Continuing community partnerships to provide professional mental health services to the UCPS student population, including Atrium Health Teletherapy and the Department of Social Services Behavioral Health Collaborative Program. - Serve as a resource to all UCPS leadership regarding the focus on building and maintaining healthy social and emotional school climates within each school. - Implement various aspects of the Threat Assessment Plan, Reunification Plan, Suicide Intervention Plan. Define the role of members of the crisis response teams. - Staff will be aware of what team they are a part of and know how to respond based on training provided on protocols.