
Health Promoting Schools and Systems and Improving Global Partnerships in Health and Education

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The smartest of all investments are the coordinated investments in health and education that bring mutually reinforcing benefits

- ❑ The global progress in school enrolment since 2000 in primary and secondary education offers an unparalleled opportunity to reach many more adolescents with essential information and services
- ❑ Students spend an average of 7590 hours in the classroom over 8-10 years during primary and lower secondary school. This prolonged contact offers opportunities for schools to contribute to better health and well-being in various ways
- ❑ Schools can extend beyond health promotion to link students with health care services when required
- ❑ The school system represents an exceptionally cost-effective platform for such an investment:
 - ❑ For example, school feeding programmes deliver US\$9 in returns for every US\$1 invested.
 - ❑ School programmes that address mental health can potentially provide a return on investment of US\$21.5 for every US\$1 invested over 80 years.
- ❑ Whole-school approaches have large effects on school climate, depressive symptoms, bullying, violence perpetration and victimization, attitudes towards gender, and knowledge of reproductive and sexual health
- ❑ School health programmes are feasible in all settings, and benefit multiple sectors

Almost every country in the world implements school health and nutrition programmes



9 out of 10 countries implement a school health and nutrition policy or programme



7 out of 10 low- and middle income countries implement school health programmes for adolescents



More than 100 countries have school-based vaccination programmes



388 million schoolchildren receive school meals



Almost every country includes education for health and well-being in its curriculum



More than 4 in 5 countries include sexuality education



More attention must be paid to the **whole-school** approach to health and well-being



whole-school approaches to school health appear to be most well-established in Europe; in other regions, relatively few countries are implementing the health-promoting schools approach at scale.



Only around 60% of national school health policy documents refer to the school curriculum



Only 50% of national documents mention school health services



Only 35% of national policy documents refer to the social environment

1 in 3 students aged 11-15 years suffered bullying in the past month

Boys **35%**

Girls **30%**



More attention must be paid to a **comprehensive** approach to school health



While nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, physical activity, sexual and reproductive health and rights are commonly included in school health programmes, **less covered areas** include mental health promotion, prevention of substance use, violence and unintentional injury, and addressing the needs of students with chronic conditions



Education for health and well-being is part of the curriculum in most countries across the world. However, there is limited evidence of the extent to which schools deliver **comprehensive** health-related education. Even when covered, some topics, e.g., CSE lacks the breadth of topics needed for it to be effective and relevant; issues such as sexual orientation, family planning and abortion are not covered.



Only 51% of countries globally provide school-based mental health promotion and prevention programmes

70% of high-income countries

24% of low-income countries

School health services do not address substance use in most countries.



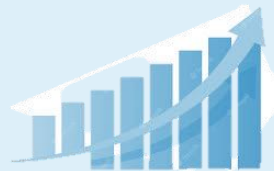
More attention must be paid to a **sustained** approach to school health



Significant expansion of school feeding programmes over the last decade, with **more than 90%** financed by domestic funds, shows what political commitment can achieve. This commitment needs to be extended to comprehensive school health programmes and interventions



In some regions and countries, the majority of school health national coordinators were appointed by the ministry of health



Only 52% of countries with national standards in place for health-promoting schools reported that they monitor the implementation of these standards



Every school should be a health-promoting school.



Making every school a
health-promoting school

Vision

Make **every** school a health-
promoting school

Aim

Support countries to build health-
promoting education **systems**

About the initiative *Making Every School a Health Promoting School*

Lead by WHO and UNESCO in close collaboration with FAO, UNAIDS, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and other partners

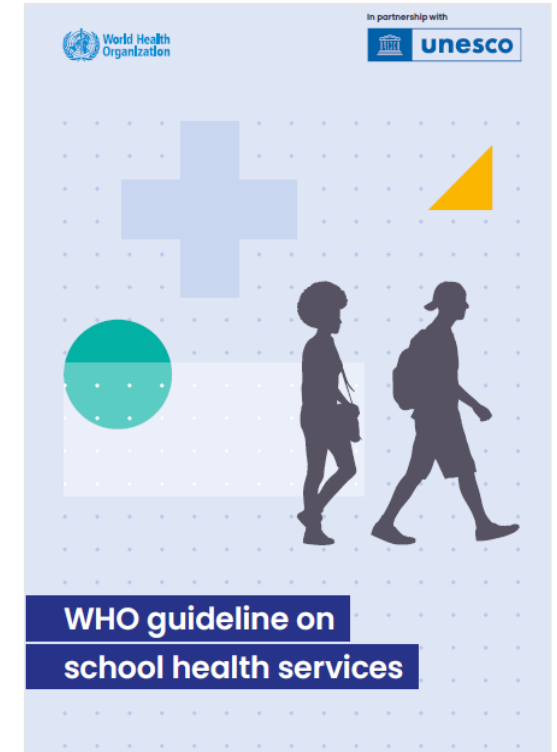


Video

<https://youtu.be/niHrV9JM8EM>



Global guidance is available



We need to build strong **partnerships** to advance the vision of Making Every School a Health-Promoting School

Between
school staff
and
communities

We need to enhance the culture of involving all stakeholders in the school community, including headteachers, teachers, other school staff, parents, students and community and religious leaders

Within and
between
ministries

We need to invest in single-sector and inter-sectoral action for school health

Across
regions
and
countries

Good practices are many. We need to invest in learning communities and knowledge networks between districts, countries and regions

Between
global
partners

We need to strengthen existing coalitions and partnerships to embrace a comprehensive and sustained approach to school health, and build a consensus on measures of success



**No education system
can be effective unless
it promotes the health
and well-being of its
learners, educators
and communities.**



**Making every school a
health-promoting school**

<https://www.who.int/activities/investing-in-school-health>