

COLORADO HEALTHY SCHOOLS SMART SOURCE



THE COLORADO EDUCATION INITIATIVE

“We must continue to strive for the integration of all aspects of the child - mental, physical, and emotional - into the programs and policies we offer in education. Smart Source will give us useful, well-rounded information so we can improve our practices. After all, our job is to create healthy, productive citizens that can thrive in a globally competitive society.”

- *Chris Hinger, Principal,
Pagosa Springs Middle School,
Archuleta School District*

WHY NOW?

Research shows that healthy students are better learners. Collecting data is a critical part of creating healthier schools and supporting education improvement goals. Much of the focus — understandably so — is on collecting student achievement data such as test scores. Additional information related to physical activity, health education, student supports, and social and emotional wellness can have a significant impact on those achievement scores, but they often are not emphasized.

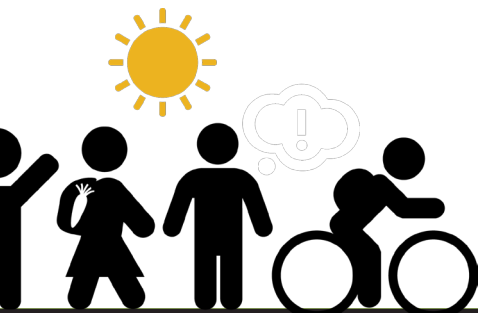
What’s more, Colorado schools and districts have been inundated with requests to participate in data collection efforts about school health policies and practices. However, data are either not provided back to schools or are not available in a format that helps them make effective programmatic and policy decisions.

WHAT IS SMART SOURCE?

Colorado Health Schools Smart Source (Smart Source) will streamline data about school health policies and practices into a statewide system by 2017. Smart Source is completely voluntary and no personally identifiable information will be collected on any student. The benefits of Smart Source include:

- For schools and districts, this resource will decrease duplicative data collection by streamlining multiple survey efforts and recognize exemplar schools and districts in order to replicate best practices. It will also provide a far more robust picture of the effects of their school health efforts through tailored technical assistance and school-level reports.
- For statewide funders, organizations, and agencies, it will help assess whether they are “moving the needle” on health and wellness in schools, allocate resources, and inform statewide decisions and legislation.

WHAT SMART SOURCE IS:	WHAT SMART SOURCE IS NOT:
A school and district-level tool that collects data about health policies and practices.	A student-level tool that collects data on student attitudes and behaviors. Student-level data is collected via the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey.
A system that allows schools and districts to assess their own policy and practices in order to improve school health.	A monitoring system holding schools accountable for implementing school health policies and practices.
A tool that reduces the burden on schools by streamlining multiple school health policy and practice data collections into one system.	One of many school-level tools that assess school health policy and practice.
A vehicle to help secure funding and resources to improve school health.	A vehicle to highlight schools and districts that are not engaged in health and wellness efforts.
An opportunity to recognize schools for the great work they do in health and wellness and replicate best practices.	An opportunity for schools and districts to be penalized for not emphasizing health and wellness efforts.
A way to provide reports to schools and districts with meaningful and actionable data.	A system that provides little to no usable data.



“The School Health Policy and Practice Data Collection Program will help to dramatically transform how Colorado schools access, analyze, and use data to support students and staff in adopting and maintaining healthy behaviors.”

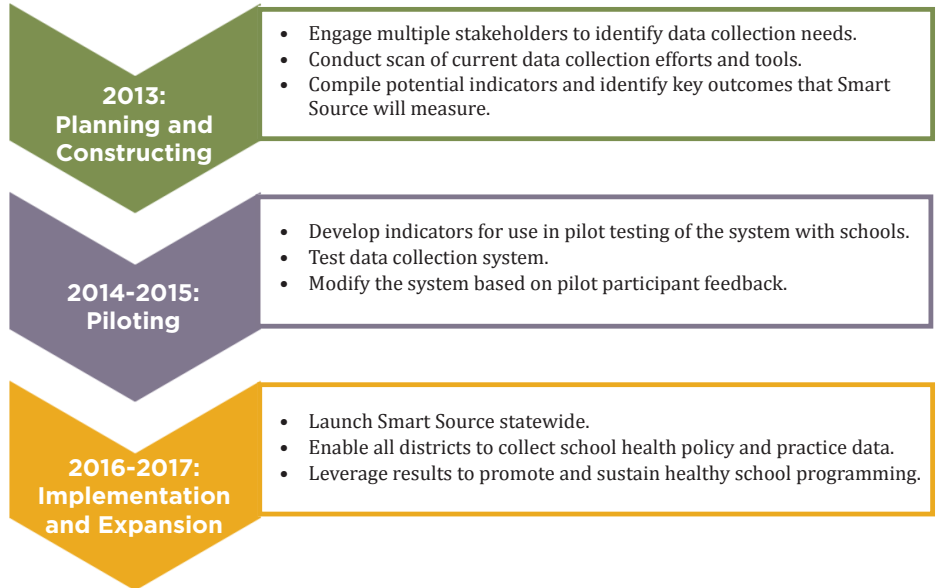
- Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



PROJECT TIMELINE

The development and roll-out of this data system will occur over a five-year period.



A PARTNERSHIP FOR COLORADO SCHOOLS

Funded by Kaiser Permanente, Smart Source is a partnership also involving the Colorado Department of Education, The Colorado Education Initiative, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Colorado Coalition for Healthy Schools.

ABOUT THE COLORADO EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Colorado Education Initiative is an independent nonprofit working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education and public education stakeholders to accelerate bold improvement in student achievement through innovation, collaboration and capacity building. We believe that increased student achievement for all Colorado students requires effective leaders in every school, effective educators in every classroom and healthy and engaging environments that ignite a passion for learning in every student.

LEARN MORE

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