

# COLORADO HEALTHY SCHOOLS SMART SOURCE



## ABOUT SMART SOURCE

Research shows that healthy students are better learners. That's why it is critical to understand, identify, and implement key health policies and programs that create and support healthy behaviors — to meet the needs of all students.

Schools, districts, and health stakeholders are interested in understanding what school health efforts are in place to positively impact both student health and academic outcomes.

Colorado Healthy Schools Smart Source (Smart Source) can help assess a school's programs and policies by showing how that school compares to other Colorado schools in addressing best practices. It is Colorado's tool for measuring school health policies and practices, and providing objective, feasible, and specific school-level data that spans nine areas:

- General health policies and practices
- Counseling, psychological, and social services
- Family, community, and student involvement
- Health education
- Health services
- Healthy and safe school environments
- Nutrition
- Physical education and activity
- Staff wellness

"We must continue to strive to integrate a child's mental, physical, and emotional well-being 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 who can thrive in a globally competitive society."

– Chris Hinger, Principal,  
Pagosa Springs Middle  
School, Pagosa Springs, Colo.

The goals are to:

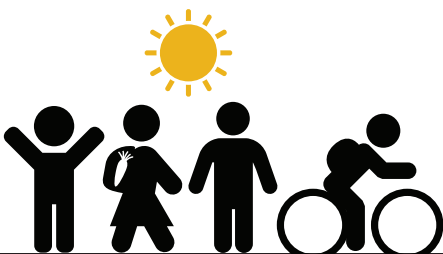
- Streamline previous multiple school health tools and reduce the burden on schools.
- Improve the quality of school-level health policy and practice data.
- Increase the number of schools assessing their health policies and practices.

Smart Source is funded by Kaiser Permanente and is a partnership among The Colorado Education Initiative (CEI), Colorado Department of Education, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

## HOW SMART SOURCE HELPS SCHOOLS

Schools can use Smart Source data to:

- Identify areas of need related to health.



- Make the case for:
  - Resources such as funding and community partnerships.
  - Policy change at the state, district, and school levels.
  - Implementation of new programs.
- Garner support for school health efforts from school board members, administrators, parents, students, teachers, and communities.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of school health policies and practices over time.

## BACKGROUND

Smart Source was developed with input from hundreds of stakeholders across Colorado, including funders, research and evaluation experts, state agency representatives, school and district representatives, and other content experts.

Smart Source is in its second year and the purpose is threefold:

- Provide actionable data to schools.
- Help schools identify their strengths and gaps in school health.
- Decrease the burden of duplicative data efforts for our schools.

Over 450 schools participated in Smart Source in 2015-16.

## COLORADO HEALTHY SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

Smart Source is an important part of the Colorado Healthy School Champions Recognition program, which recognizes and awards schools for their successes in creating a healthy school environment and implementing effective school health efforts. To be eligible for recognition, schools must complete the Smart Source assessment, submit a narrative describing their school health efforts, and obtain letters of support. Information about the program is available on CEI's website.

## LEARN MORE

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## ABOUT THE COLORADO EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Colorado Education Initiative is an independent nonprofit working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, educators, schools, districts, and other public education stakeholders to accelerate educational improvement and innovation across Colorado. CEI envisions that every student in Colorado is prepared and unafraid to succeed in school, work, and life, and ready to take on the challenges of today, tomorrow, and beyond.

