

Status:

- Lack of funding for a coordinator at the district level to lead the district and serve as the contact for coordinating and integrating community-based programs and services with school-based programs.
- Lack of coordination in schools for services that address barriers to academic success caused by immigration, homelessness, divorce, remarriage, poverty, substance abuse and violence.
- Lack of a coordinator as a support person for families, teachers and students to provide or direct them to the appropriate services.
- Lack of one central link within the schools to identify key players in the schools and communities to implement the identified components of a Coordinated School Health (CSH) program.
- The state Office of Coordinated School Health cannot currently be sustained without state/federal support.

Program:

Facilitate working relationships between schools and communities through collaborative partnerships to provide/supplement student health services and garner existing local resources.

Impact:

- CSH will potentially reach 450,000 Arkansas school children each year.
- Improved academic success of Arkansas students:
 - Increase in graduation rates.
 - Improvement in scores of state mandated tests.
- Decrease in juvenile crime rates.
- Decrease in substance abuse violations on school campuses.
- Improve the overall health of faculty, administration and staff, as well as families and communities.
- Increase in health literacy and healthy behaviors of individuals connected to a school/community implementing CSH.
- Positively impact economic development in the state due to the improved health literacy and healthy behaviors of graduating students – improving the quality of our available workforce.

How it Works:

- School districts need funding to support a person to coordinate the non-academic programs and services children need to succeed academically.
- Financially support school districts in the implementation of CDC/DASH model of Coordinated School Health.
- Provide financial support for school districts to hire a CSH Coordinator.
- Provide financial support for a state level office of CSH.

Administration/Oversight: The coordinator hired in the school district will be accountable to the district to see that existing programs/services are utilized and new approaches are added as needed.

The Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Coordinated School Health will receive appropriated funds to oversee the one-time purchase and distribution of computers for school nurse use and oversee all additional funding of other program activities.