Schools and Clinics United for Healthy Children and Youth

Schools and doctors join to improve nutrition

In Lakeland Union school district, physicians and educators adopt consistent practices around healthy weight, and join to plan health interventions

► Description: The purpose of this planning project was to improve eating and activity habits among children living within the geographic area of the Lakeland Union High School District in Oneida and Vilas Counties. This project created a formal partnership among five school districts and three primary care practices to adopt consistent policies and practices, and plan community interventions aimed to reduce childhood obesity.

► Results: Primary care providers developed a policy regarding childhood obesity that includes identifying and managing overweight or obese children and adolescents, standardizing patient education materials and a healthy lifestyles prescription. The five school district partners adopted several consistent policies and practices during the project. Two Physical Education Program (PEP) grants were submitted and awarded during the project. The work through the Schools and Clinics United for Healthy Children and Youth project was an impetus for the school districts in the Lakeland area to take action regarding the future of children’s health. This project is a good example of a model that can be used in any community to affect lasting change in local and institutional policies. This project utilizes a respected community person to bring lasting change to the community, the schools, and the medical profession on the issue of childhood obesity.

► The Partnership: The academic partner served as a bridge between primary care practitioners and the local school districts. His passion for building connections was vital to the success of the program and the success of the community-academic partnership.

► Next Steps: Three school districts adopted new policies related to physical education. The school districts involved received a combined $1.56M through two Physical Education Program grants to continue this work.