

National Coordinating Committee on School Health and Safety: Roles for Promoting Health Literacy

**Roundtable on Health Literacy
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Background of NCCSHS

- History of NCCSHS
 - Established in 1994 by US Departments of Education & Health and Human Services
 - Joined by Department of Agriculture
 - Purpose to bring together Federal departments with national non-governmental organizations to support quality comprehensive school health programs in the Nation's schools
 - Experienced a hiatus in functioning and was reconvened in 1997

Current Functioning of NCCSHS

- **Inclusive membership**
 - ~75 NGOs belong and several Federal agencies actively participate
- **Participatory organization**
 - Volunteer steering committee
 - Elected chairperson
 - Vision and mission statement
 - Guiding operating principles

NCCSHS Vision and Mission

- **Vision**

- All children in our Nation will be healthy & achieve academic success

- **Mission**

- To bring together representatives of national education, health & nutrition organizations for collaborative activities that promote policies & programs at national, State & local levels for advancing the health of all children & adolescents & promoting their academic success

NCCSHS Objectives

- To provide national leadership for promotion of quality coordinated school health programs
- To convey a clear vision of school health programs in improving the health, safety, mental health, nutrition and educational achievement of children
- To facilitate communication & collaboration among national organizations invested in children

NCCSHS Activities

- **Meetings held twice yearly**
 - Provide new knowledge & skills to participants
 - Generate discussion of contemporary issues & encourage action
 - Facilitate communications among NGOs from different sectors & with Federal staff & officials
 - Offer opportunities for planning

NCCSHS Activities

- **Documents & resources**
 - Review of empirical literature to study relationships between academic performance & school attendance with a variety of health issues. Publication of articles in a peer reviewed journal.
 - Set of brief, basic articles on topics important to school health
 - Website containing annotated list of resources
<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/healthystudents>

Possible Roles for NCCSHS in Promoting Health Literacy

- **Possible dissemination activities**
 - Building a future meeting around findings & recommendations of IOM Report that are relevant to grades K – 12
 - Incorporating discussion of National Health Education Standards (NHES) in future meetings and examining their interface with the recommendations of the IOM Report
 - Commissioning article on how membership associations can act upon recommendations of IOM Report

Possible Roles for NCCSHS in Promoting Health Literacy

- **Promoting conceptual understanding**
 - Through its lens of healthy child development, help ensure the understanding of the conceptual framework of NHES
 - How each performance indicator helps build children's & adolescents' cognitive, emotional, behavioral & social development
 - The relationships between health education and overall academic achievement as well as with healthy behavioral decisions

Potential Impact of NCCSHS Activities

- Powerful reach across NCCSHS membership – each organization has a national constituency
- NCCSHS offers an open forum for the engagement of health & education sectors
- NCCSHS encourages its members to apply evidence-based knowledge in creative & substantive ways

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