

Development and Approval of School Improvement Plans

G.S. 115C-105.27, Development and approval of school improvement plans, requires each school to develop a school improvement plan that takes into consideration the annual performance goals for that school that are set by the State Board of Education under G. S. 115C-105.28.

Strategic Priorities

It is recommended that school improvement plans be organized around the State's five strategic priorities, provided they complement the LEA's goals and objectives. The five priorities are

1. High Student Performance;
2. Healthy Students in Safe, Orderly and Caring Schools;
3. Quality Teachers, Administrators and Staff;
4. Strong Family, Community and Business Support and
5. Effective and Efficient Operations.

By using these priorities, schools can address local needs while working for continuous improvement in the areas the State has identified as critical. For example, high student performance would address moving students at Levels I and II to Levels III or higher in reading, writing and mathematics; closing achievement gaps by race/ethnicity, addressing obesity and other health needs of students; gender and socio-economic status; and continuing the growth of students currently performing at Levels III and IV, including those students who are academically and intellectually gifted. The second strategic priority would include the school's safe school plan and issues related to healthy schools and students. The school's required staff development plan would be a component of the Quality Teachers, Administrators and Staff priority. Parent involvement and community/business partnerships would be addressed under Strong Family, Community and Business Support. Financial flexibility and waivers would be included under Effective and Efficient Operations since the rationale for waivers is to allow the schools to be more effective in serving the needs of every student.

School Improvement Plans

The school improvement plan should be based on a comprehensive needs assessment and should address a few critical areas of the school, including reading, writing, mathematics, and safe schools. A few goals and objectives will help maintain focus on critical needs and direct resources to these needs. The school improvement plan must include a plan for the use of **staff development funds**. The funds may be used to address the critical needs as identified in the school improvement plan and in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.21.A.

Each school improvement plan should describe how character education will be incorporated into the curriculum. Character education should address the following

traits: courage, good judgment, integrity, kindness, perseverance, respect, responsibility, self-discipline. Schools are also encouraged to include the following responsibilities: respect for school personnel, responsibility for school safety, service to others and good citizenship.

The school improvement plan shall, if the school serves students in kindergarten or first grade, include a plan for preparing students to read at grade level by the time they enter second grade. The plan shall require kindergarten and first grade teachers to notify parents or guardians when their child is not reading at grade level and is at risk of not ready at grade level by the time the child enters second grade. The plan may include the use of assessments to monitor students' progress in learning to read, strategies for teachers and parents to implement that will help students improve and expand their reading, and provide for the recognition of teachers and strategies that appear to be effective at preparing students to read at grade level.

Schools with kindergarten or first grade should review their school improvement plans carefully to ensure that this legislation is addressed appropriately and that the school has a process in place to notify parents or guardians when the child is not reading at grade level or may not be reading at grade level when s/he enters second grade. This requirement would be included under the High Student Performance strategic priority.

In February 2003, the State Board of Education passed HSP-S-000, Healthy Active Children (HAC). A copy of that policy is included in the appendices of this document. The policy may also be accessed online at www.sbpolicy.dpi.state.nc.us. For reporting purposes, each school improvement plan shall describe how the school is meeting the Healthy Active Children policy. The school should submit this information to the central office, not directly to DPI. Each LEA central office will summarize school reports to submit to Raleigh. The plan must include time allotted for physical education (with a physical education specialist); procedures to assure that recess is not being taken away as punishment from children and that "appropriate" amounts of physical activity are being provided. For 2004, 2005 and 2006, this information will be extracted from the school improvement plans and sent to the Department of Public Instruction.

HSP-S-000 was in effect immediately following approval of the State Board of Education (January 9, 2003) but does allow time for implementation through the 2006-07 school year. Action plans will need to be submitted by July 15, 2004 and progress reports are due to the Department of Public Instruction by July 15 of 2005 and 2006. Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, school improvement plans will include health concerns related to students as part of their plans and will no longer be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction.

In order for this policy to be fully implemented by the 2006-07 school year, LEAs should

- establish and maintain School Health Advisory Councils to represent the eight components of a coordinated school health

program. Additional information about the school health councils can be found at www.nchealthyschools.org and

- submit summary reports of HAC polity to Raleigh.

Schools should

- conduct a needs assessment on health services and programs. Sample needs assessments may be found at www.nchealthyschools.org or www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/SHI/index.htm.
- provide an action plan to the LEA.
- provide progress reports their LEA.
- submit an annual report that includes information on the number of minutes provides for children in physical education and in physical activity yearly.

Each school district shall require students enrolled in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grade levels up to middle school to participate in physical activity as part of the district's physical education curriculum.

- Elementary schools should consider the benefits of having 150 minutes per week, and secondary schools should consider the benefits of having 225 minutes per week of physical activity that will include a minimum of every other day of physical education throughout the 180-day school year. North Carolina has demonstration schools and other models for schools to refer to for ideas.
- The physical education course is defined and should be the same class size as other regular classes.
- Appropriate amounts of recess and physical activity will be provided for students and for duration sufficient to provide a significant health benefit to students.

Structured recess and other physical activity shall not be taken away as a form of punishment.

The State Board of Education shall make available to each school district a coordinated school health model and training opportunities that provide for coordinating the eight (8) components of a comprehensive plan:

1. safe environment,
2. physical education,
3. health education,
4. staff wellness,
5. health services,
6. mental and social health,
7. nutrition services and
8. parent/family involvement.

Reports on implementation of the Healthy Active Children policy should be submitted to

Dr. Elsie C. Leak, Associate State Superintendent
Curriculum and School Reform Services
6307 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6307

Questions regarding HSP-S-000 should be directed to

- Kymm Ballard, Healthful Living Consultant at 919.807.3858 or kballard@dpi.state.nc.us or
- Paula Hudson Collins, Senior Advisor for Healthy Schools at 919.807.3859 or pcollins@dpi.state.nc.us.

School Improvement Plan for _____ - _____
(and Action Plan for Healthy Students in Safe, Orderly and Caring Schools)

LEA: _____ School: _____

Strategic Priority: Healthy Students in Safe, Orderly and Caring Schools

School Improvement Objective: _____

Please record your action steps.

Strategy	Not Yet Addressed (What is your plan?)	In Progress (Please describe.)	Need Assistance (Please describe.)	NA (Provide explanation.)
Ensure all students have recess during the school day and that it is not taken away as punishment. Indicate if this is in progress or not yet addressed.				

Strategy	Yes	No	Time over 180 days
Provide physical education for every student taught by a physical education teacher. Check the appropriate “yes” or “no” box and list the exact number of minutes in PE over the 180-day school year.			
Provide physical activity and/or recess for every student. List the exact number of minutes provided for recess and/or physical activity over the 180-day school year.			

Strategy	Not Yet Addressed		In Progress	Need Assistance (Please describe.)
Implement a coordinated school health program. Indicate if this is in progress or not yet addressed by the school.				
	At Our School	In Our LEA	Unsure	Need Assistance (Please describe.)
We have a School Health Advisory Council. Check all that apply.				
What other areas of Coordinated School Health Programs are you working on implementing in your school? Please explain.				Need Assistance (Please describe.)

Summary due dates:

July 15, 2004

Summary of School Action Plans. School action plans should be available upon request.

July 15, 2005

Summary of School Progress Reports due in Raleigh from the LEA.

July 15, 2006

Summary of School Progress Reports due in Raleigh from the LEA.

July 15, 2007

Summary of Schools' Completion of Implementation of the HSP-S-000 Healthy Active Children policy.

School Action Plans and Summaries
LEA Reporting Formats
To be Submitted by the LEA to DPI

Name of School									
	Yes	No	Time over 180 days	Yes	No	Time over 180 days	Yes	No	Time over 180 days
Provide physical education for every student taught by a physical education teacher. By each school, list the exact number of minutes provided in PE over the 180 day school year.									

Name of School									
	Yes	No	Time over 180 days	Yes	No	Time over 180 days	Yes	No	Time over 180 days
Provide physical activity/ or recess for every student. Under each school, check yes or no and list the exact number of minutes provided for recess and/or physical activity, such as intramurals, over the 180 day school year.									

Name of School									
	Not Yet Addressed or NA	In Progress	Needs Assistance	Not Yet Addressed or NA	In Progress	Needs Assistance	Not Yet addressed or NA	In Progress	Needs Assistance
Implement a coordinated school health program Indicate if in progress or not yet addressed by school.									

LEA as a Whole	Not Yet Addressed or NA	In Progress	Needs Assistance	Not Yet Addressed or NA	In Progress	Needs assistance	Not yet addressed or NA	In Progress	Needs Assistance
The LEA has a school health plan.									
The LEA has a School Health Advisory Council.									
The LEA has conducted a Coordinated School Health Program assessment.									
What other areas of Coordinated School Health Programs are you working on implementing in your school? Please explain.							Need Assistance (Please describe.)		

Summary Due Dates

Due Date	Information to be Submitted
July 15, 2004	Summary of school action plans. School action plans should be available upon request.
July 15, 2005	Summary of school progress reports due in Raleigh.
July 15, 2006	Summary of school progress reports due in Raleigh.
July 15, 2007	Summary of schools completion for implementation of HSP-S-000, Healthy Active Children

Questions

If you have questions, please contact the appropriate person listed below.

- Paula Hudson Collins – Coordinated School Health Programs and School Health Advisory Councils – 919-807-3859
- Kymm Ballard – Physical Education and Recess – 919-807-3858
- Jackie Colbert – School Improvement Plans – 919-807-3916

Submitting Reports

Please submit all reports to

Dr. Elsie C. Leak, Associate State Superintendent
Curriculum and School Reform Services
6307 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6307