

What is a School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)?

A SHAC is a group of individuals representing segments of the community, appointed by the school district to serve at the district level, to provide advice to the district on [coordinated school health](#) programming and its impact on student health and learning. The SHAC will assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction.

SHACs provide an efficient, effective structure for recommending age-appropriate, sequential health education programs, and early intervention and prevention strategies that can easily be supported by local families and community stakeholders.



NISD SHAC

What is a Coordinated School Health Program?

Coordinated School Health (CSH) is an integrated, systematic set of planned, sequential, school-affiliated strategies, activities and services designed to advance student academic performance and promote their optimal physical, emotional, social and educational development. It is coordinated by a multidisciplinary team that is accountable to the community for program quality and effectiveness. By addressing health-related issues, schools not only foster student's academic achievements, but also help to establish healthy behaviors that last a lifetime. Coordinated School Health Programs address the 8 components of a child's health.



What Do SHACs Do?

- Program planning: SHACs meet regularly to share teaching strategies, problem solve and plan synergistic activities. They participate in evaluation and assessment of community health issues; facilitate innovation in health education; and, provide in-service training programs.
- Promotion and Advocacy: SHAC is responsible for advocating and promoting school health within the school district and in the community. Spotlighting the SHAC's efforts may help ensure sufficient resources are allocated to school health.
- Fiscal Impact: Assist schools in raising funds for programs such as preparing grant applications.
- District and state agency Interaction: SHACs work with appropriate state agency personnel in curriculum selection, health services allocation, development of food service programs, distribution of federal or state funds and policymaking.
- District School Board Interaction: By law, school boards must consider the recommendations of their local SHAC before changing the district's health education curriculum or instruction. Therefore, if given the opportunity, SHACs should review and recommend available curriculum and instruction options using carefully evaluated information based on an understanding of community values and culture as well as youth health risks; and, student, family and school staff needs.
- Evaluation, accountability and quality control: Many SHACs are given responsibility to ensure school health funds are spent appropriately.