



# Collaboration and Policy:

The building blocks to sustain  
IAQ/Asthma Programs

**With Special Thanks to**

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# Objectives

By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

- Develop at least two strategies to sustain their asthma programs beyond the cooperative agreement cycle
- Describe at least two ways to work with school boards to implement policy on IAQ/Asthma
- Discuss the impact of district asthma policy on district liability
- List components to be added to adapt an IAQ/Asthma policy for their local school district

# Developing Collaborations

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## CASE STUDY

### Asthma Management in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD)

# Asthma Management in OUSD

- CDC grantee – Controlling Asthma in American Cities Project
- Oakland Berkeley Asthma Coalition (OBAC)
- Strategized to work with district – funded school nurse position

# Asthma Management in OUSD

## School Nurse, Asthma Specialist

- 50% of role toward sustainability
- Contracts with principals
- Staff development: nurses, PE teachers
- Evaluate and collect data
- Policy: develop, adopt, implement

# Asthma Management in OUSD

## Policy development

- Asthma management and IAQ
- No template/model policy available
- OBAC working group
- School nurse feedback

# Asthma Management in OUSD

## Politics and process

- Change in leadership of Health Services
- Role of Board Secretary
- Issues:

Policy for every disease

Increased liability

# Asthma Management in OUSD

## Increased liability

- Collaborative partners as resources
- “A school’s best protection against liability is having policies and procedures in place and being proactive.”

*School Governance and Leadership, Spring 2003*

[http://www.aasa.org/uploadedFiles/Resources/files/SGL\\_spring03.pdf](http://www.aasa.org/uploadedFiles/Resources/files/SGL_spring03.pdf)

# Asthma Management in OUSD

## Policy Adoption

- Collaborative partners

Letters of support

Personal contacts

Speakers at Board Meeting

# Asthma Management in OUSD

## Key Policy components

- Asthma management program
- School Nurse to coordinate
- Professional Development
- Signage

# Asthma Management in OUSD

## Leadership change in Health Services

- Sustainability through Policy and Budget
- Data, data, data/cost benefit
- Plan for transition
- Enforced policy

# Developing Collaborations

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## CASE STUDY

### Tools for Schools in the Visalia Unified School District (VUSD)

# Tools for Schools in VUSD

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**Collaborating with students and staff  
for a sustainable program**

# Tools for Schools in VUSD

Prevention, identification, remediation of IAQ issues. Use TfS guidelines based on principles that:

- School staff and students can prevent IAQ problems
- When IAQ problems arise, they may be resolved by school staff and students
- Prevention of IAQ problems results in less expense and effort

# Tools for Schools in VUSD

IAQ symposia & training. Designed to:

- Foster student involvement
- Educate HS students about importance of IAQ
- Have students learn about role they can play in healthier learning environment

# Tools for Schools in VUSD

## HS Students have

- Assisted in conducting surveys for possible IAQ issues
- Developed action plans to address concerns

Several VUSD students received national excellence award from EPA in 2003 for work on IAQ

# Tools for Schools in VUSD

## Sustainability

- IAQ clubs at High Schools
- IAQ surveys at nearby schools
- Action plans to address issues

# TEAM DISCUSSIONS

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- Barriers and challenges to collaboration for asthma/IAQ
- Problem-solving

# Role of the School Board



*National School Boards Association (NSBA)*  
*[http://nsba.org/MainMenu/Governance/KeyW](http://nsba.org/MainMenu/Governance/KeyWork.aspx)*  
*ork.aspx*

# Role of the School Board

- Set direction for the community's schools
- Establish effective and efficient structure for school district
- Provide support
- Ensure accountability to the public
- Act as community leaders

*California School Boards Association (CSBA)*

*<http://www.csba.org>*

# Working with School Boards

- Elected
- Public
- Responsible for health and safety of school
- Have clear interest in promoting student health to enhance student learning

# Working with School Boards

## Advocacy

- Non-threatening 😊
- Primary objective is improving education for students
- Parents and community have considerable influence
- Boards need community support

# Working with School Boards

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- Get to know school board members
- Let school board members get to know you
- Set reasonable goals

# Working with School Boards: The Brown Act

- Specific to California
- Purpose: legislative bodies shall conduct people's business in public and take their actions openly (exceptions)

# Working with School Boards: The Brown Act

## General requirements

- Open meetings
- Agendas sufficiently describe business to be conducted
- Properly noticed and posted in a public place 72 hours in advance
- Meaningful opportunity to comment on matters on the agenda

# Working with School Boards: The Brown Act

## What is a “meeting?”

- Congregation of a majority of members to address any matter within their jurisdiction
- Any discussion of “business” outside a public meeting by a majority of members is prohibited
- Majority of members prohibited from using a series of communications of any kind to address any matter within their jurisdiction

# Working with School Boards

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- Board Policy (BP)
- Administrative Regulations (AR)

# Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

## Policy: General

- Guideline adopted to direct a course of action
- What is wanted/not wanted
- May have rationale
- Broad to allow administrative discretion
- Specific enough to give clear guidance

# Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

Administrative Regulations provides the specifics/details

- How
- Whom
- Where
- When

# Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

## Sample policies

- Provided by NSBA or state affiliate
- Website for members
- Password protected
- Accessible to board members; sometimes district staff

# Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

## District policies

- Online through state affiliate
- District website
- School Board Office
- Public Information

# Team Activity

## Green Schools Operations Sample Board Policy

- List components for ARs for IAQ
- May be general IAQ
- May be specific e.g., TfS, Green Cleaning
- Resources: Green Schools Operations Policy Brief; OUSD BP & AR Environmental Safety

# Team Activity

- Report out
- Q&A

# Thank you!

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