

Austin ISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) 2021-2022 Annual Report

Summary:

The 2021-2022 AISD SHAC worked diligently to better serve the health and safety of AISD students. Led by 2 new co-chairs, this was an opportunity to realign the SHAC with the components of the Coordinated School Health (CSH) Model. Efforts were made to highlight one coordinated school health component at each meeting with a formal presentation. Two speakers, each representing one CSH component, were unable to present during their assigned SHAC meeting during the 2021-2022 year but will be reached out to present the coming 2022-2023 school year.

2021-22 SHAC Activities

Online meetings were conducted monthly, but the last two meetings were transitioned to in-person meetings. Standing items on the agendas were community communications, district updates, and items from members. The SHAC worked closely with district leadership and the school board to promote and support quality education and system support in all aspects of coordinated school health. Our yearly highlights are below:

- In the fall of 2021, the AISD SHAC partnered with the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee and submitted a joint letter to the AISD Board sharing our strong support for outdoor learning and dining at all AISD schools.
- Beginning with our first meeting of the year, groundwork was laid for the Human Sexuality and Responsibility Curriculum review and approval. The SHAC received regular updates on the process throughout the year, and in May 2022, consistent with SHAC roles and responsibilities, SHAC members reviewed and provided feedback on the proposed grade-specific curriculum lessons. In June 2022, the SHAC submitted a letter of recommendation to the board for approval of the Human Sexuality and Responsibility curriculum. The Human Sexuality and Responsibility Curriculum received board approval.
- The SHAC welcomed a new Director and Assistant Director of the Health Services Department, and the SHAC co-chairs were honored to work with both closely throughout the remainder of the year.
- The AISD SHAC Co-Chairs actively worked on filling vacant member position on the SHAC
 - 2 new SHAC members were welcomed
 - Additional SHAC vacancies (7 total, including 2 parent positions)* still exist within the SHAC and a priority will be working with the AISD Board members to fill all positions during the 2022-2023 academic year
- During the academic year, COVID-19 protocols were shared with the SHAC. Protocol changes the SHAC was made aware of included mask optional messaging, pool testing, and changes to other mitigation measures.
- In the spring of 2022, SHAC members were informed of concerns about proposed changes to the elementary master schedule. A letter was submitted to the Board of Trustees to share these concerns, and a request was made for alternative proposals to be considered in the implementation of the proposed schedule changes.

*Pending update

Goals for the SHAC in the upcoming school year to include:

- o Supporting the district's efforts to address the mental health of students and staff, including supporting improved and increased access to care
- o Learning and monitoring efforts to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff in the midst of increased gun violence in schools
- o Supporting district efforts to address the fentanyl epidemic and supporting ways to educate, inform, and provide information to parents and staff
- o Learning about and contributing input on nursing staffing on campuses
- o Monitoring and raising awareness of concerns regarding physical education ratios on campuses
- o Understanding and responding to a request for input on hot weather guidelines
- o Contributing to efforts to ensuring safe and clean water access for all students (e.g., water stations, bring your own bottle)
- o Contributing to efforts aimed at closing the health equity gap for all students
- o Contributing input to district safety initiatives to provide emergency services in times of natural disasters, active shooter, or other unforeseen emergencies
- o Working with the district in their efforts to facilitate and improve communication with community physicians regarding policies or changes in policies in medical requirements including, but not limited to, immunizations, sports physicals, and re-enrollment
- o Facilitating SHAC member engagement and education on the components of CSH by inviting members of each component to present updates at SHAC meetings
- o Working with the district and board of trustees to ensure a full roster of SHAC members
- o Obtaining SHAC member input on the goals for the upcoming year
- o Creating and providing an orientation for new SHAC members