State Policy Options to Address Childhood Obesity

Flora Fouladi

Policy Associate, NCSL Health Program

Wisconsin Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Childhood Obesity

September 26, 2023









Overview and Key Contributors



Policy Examples



Cross-Sector and Cross-Agency Examples

Agenda



How NCSL Strengthens Legislatures







NCSL provides trusted, nonpartisan policy research and analysis



Connections

NCSL links legislators and staff with each other and with experts



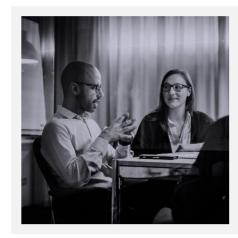
Training

NCSL delivers training tailored specifically for legislators and staff



State Voice in D.C.

NCSL represents and advocates on behalf of states on Capitol Hill



Meetings

NCSL meetings facilitate information exchange and policy discussions

Wisconsin Child Nutrition Statistics



CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2021)

13.5%

students grades 9-12 have obesity

38.2%

students grades 9-12 ate vegetables daily

40.6%

students grades 9-12 ate fruit daily

Wisconsin Physical Activity Statistics



CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2021)

52.6%

at least 60 minutes of physical activity five or more days per week 12.5%

no sustained physical activity in the past seven days

Key Contributors to Childhood Obesity













Behavioral

Environmental

Genetic

Medications

Medical Conditions





SB 313

- Directs schools to annually assess fitness and aerobic capacity
- Establishes maximums for calories from fat in school meals
- Prohibits the sale of soft drinks and candy on school grounds or from vending machines

SB 314

- Clarifies that municipalities with zoning authority may establish mixed-use zoning districts
- Requires the state housing plan to promote bicycle and pedestrianoriented design in residential and mixed-use developments.



Proposed Federal Guidelines for School Meals USDA

- Weekly added sugars limit
- Reductions in sodium intake
- Changes in professional standards for school nutrition program directors
- Flexibilities for schools serving American Indian and Alaska Native children
- Makes fruit and vegetables two separate components, rather than being combined as one
- Allows "locally grown, raised, or caught" to be used as procurement specifications for unprocessed or minimally processed food items



POLICY EXAMPLES





Food Labels and Advertising

- Set limits on unhealthy food advertising
- Front of package labels for certain foods
- Taxes on certain food items







School Nutrition

- Nutrition education programs and requirements
- Physical education programs and requirements
- "Farm to School" programs
- Water access in schools







Access to Meals and Opportunities to be Active

- WIC Farmers Market Nutrition
 Program
- Safe areas to be active
 - (<u>Complete Streets</u> or Safe Routes to School)
- Whole family campaigns
- Collaborations with the private sector







Prenatal and Pediatric Care

- Breastfeeding accommodations
- Coverage of lactations supports
- Education programs for new parents
- Home visiting

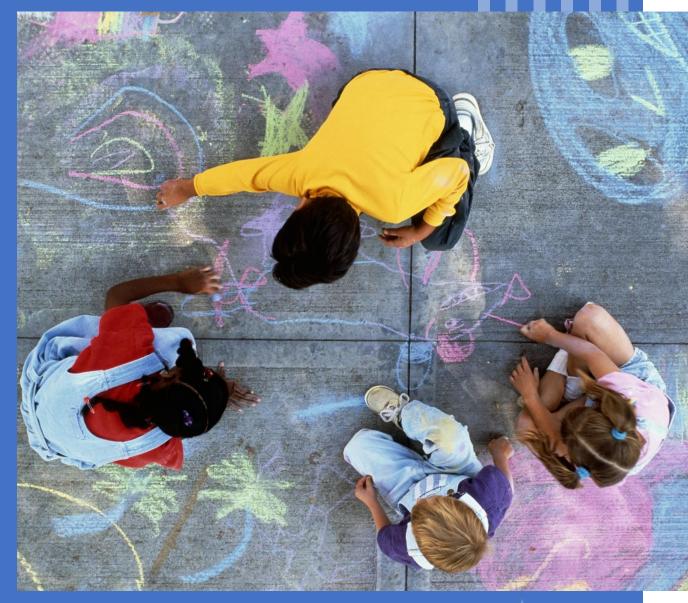






Youth Mental Health

- School personnel training
- Medicaid coverage of school services
- Awareness and education campaigns
- Increase access to mental health services







CROSS-SECTOR AND CROSS-AGENCY COLLABORATIONS













South Dakota State University

Establishes school-based coalitions to serve healthy meals in rural areas

Oregon Health Authority

Collaboration between Medicaid and public health offices

Louisiana Lifestyle Choices

<u>Pilot program</u> to incorporate fresh food into school-provided lunches







CATCH Oklahoma

Coordinated Approach to Child Health



Minnesota SHIP

Statewide Health Improvement Partnership





NCSL Resources

- Maternal and Child Health Database
- WIC Webpage
- Article on School Meals
- USDA Briefing on New Tools to Combat
 Summer Hunger
- Improving Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health
- Supporting Moms' Health in the Postpartum Period



Flora Fouladi Policy Associate, Health Program | flora.fouladi@ncsl.org, 303.856.1340

NCSL Resources