



## Land Use, Schools, and Health Work Group Key Accomplishments & Outcomes

In 2010, the California Health in All Policies Task Force identified Active Transportation as a key priority, and in 2011 the Task Force identified school facilities and planning as an important strategy for pursuing this goal. A number of activities have since taken place to support consideration of health, equity, and sustainability in decisions impacting school land use and facilities, including, but not limited to: two cross sector convenings; establishment of the multi-agency Land Use, Schools, and Health Work Group (Work Group); and collaborative input provided on a number of policy topics to state agencies.

### **2010 & 2012 Convenings**

The California Department of Education (CDE), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Strategic Growth Council (SGC), Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and the University of California, Berkeley Center for Cities and Schools (CC&S) convened leaders and stakeholders to discuss ways to ensure high-quality, opportunity-rich schools in healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities.

1. In 2010, the [\*Smart Schools for Sustainable Communities: Aligning Sustainable Communities Planning and Public Education in California\*](#) roundtable brought together state, regional, and local policy leaders to explore the connections between schools and healthy, sustainable community development efforts. Participants discussed policy challenges, opportunities, and recommendations to improve education quality and make communities more livable and economically sound.
2. In 2012, [\*Partnering with K-12 Education in Building Healthy, Sustainable, and Competitive Regions Symposium\*](#) brought together over 200 leaders and stakeholders to discuss ways to align policy agendas and ensure high-quality, opportunity-rich schools in healthy, sustainable communities.

### **Work Group Background**

Building off of the partnerships developed across sectors to host these convenings, Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force staff facilitated the creation of a multi-agency Work Group, which now meets quarterly to explore tangible opportunities to implement state-level strategies that align school facility and city planning processes to improve community safety and health. Work Group members include: CDE, CDPH, SGC, OPR, Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans), and Dept. of General Services (DGS) Division of the State Architect (DSA) with HiAP staff providing facilitation support. The Dept. of Pesticide Regulation and Dept. of Food and Agriculture have also expressed interest in being involved.

### **Work Group Accomplishments & Outcomes**

- The Work Group has provided input on a number of state guidance documents including:
  - CDE's [\*sustainable communities and school planning fact sheet\*](#)
  - OPR's General Plan Guidelines and the accompanying mapping tool
  - OPR's California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Update



- SGC's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program funded through cap and trade
- HiAP Task Force's 2014-2016 Active Transportation Action Plan
- DGS worked with CDE to gather resources to update the DSA's sustainability website to include information on Safe Routes to School for stakeholders and practitioners.
- HiAP staff arranged meetings to brief SGC members and leadership on the Work Group, elevate priorities, and explore opportunities to support consideration of health, equity, and sustainability in decisions impacting school land use and facilities.
- Work Group members convened an interagency meeting to explore the safety of traffic roundabouts sited near schools and the needs and roles of the transportation, health, and education sectors in ensuring roundabouts are designed to maximize safety, efficiency, and greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits for all users.
- CDE invited the Work Group to participate in a presentation on the relationships between traffic circles and schools provided by the Local Government Commission.
- Work Group members participated in a Walk Audit Training Workshop, sponsored by WalkSacramento, at Del Paso Heights Elementary School in the Twin Rivers Unified School District.
- Work Group members have used the group as a forum for discussing opportunities to troubleshoot challenges with implementing Active Transportation Program infrastructure and non-infrastructure Safe Routes to School projects.
- The Work Group has identified and discussed a number of examples of innovative best practices related to school facility and land use partner collaboration, including on the topics of infill and transit oriented development and drought impacts on health and active transportation.
- CDE presented at the California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG) 2013 Regional Leadership Forum on opportunities for local and regional collaboration in school site development and evaluation.
- CDE participated in the State Agency/Metropolitan Planning Organization SB 375 Implementation Working Group facilitated by CALCOG and the SGC.
- Work Group members participated in CDE's stakeholder group for U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award program (2012-2016), providing input on the selection criteria and reviewing award applications each year.
- The Work Group has fostered increased interagency communication between state level departments on land use and school related topics.