



## Health in All Policies Task Force Land Use, Schools, and Health Work Group 2016-2018 Action Report

*Presented to the Strategic Growth Council April 20<sup>th</sup> 2018*

This Action Report describes outcomes of the Land Use, Schools, and Health Work Group accomplished since 2016.

**Work Group Purpose:** The Land Use, Schools, and Health Work Group supports members in applying considerations of health, equity, and sustainability to decisions impacting school land use and facilities to improve community health.

**Work Group Members:** Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and the Departments of Education (CDE), Food and Agriculture (CDFA), General Services – Division of the State Architect (DGS-DSA), Public Health (CDPH), Pesticide Regulation (DPR), and Transportation (Caltrans).

### Outcomes of Work Group Activities

#### Aligned Goals

- Identified a set of shared commitments to pursue in 2016/2017 (see Addendum).
- The CDE and SGC identified shared priorities related to school facility siting regulations.
- Explored collaborative opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled associated with schools. Key discussion items included implementation planning for Senate Bill 743 (Steinberg, 2013) related to transportation impact analysis, measurement of active transportation through the California Household Travel Survey, and promoting active transportation for school commute, and the impact of autonomous vehicles on school transport.
- Discussed the role of schools in short-lived climate pollutant reduction efforts.
- The DGS-DSA briefed the Work Group on proposed code changes to require shade tree canopy in school parking lots and has partnered with the Work Group in conducting stakeholder outreach during their process.
- Provided input on the Department of Education's Health Education Framework.

#### Relationship Building Across Sectors

- Mapped member stakeholder networks, to 1) increase understanding of the reach and interests of member stakeholders and 2) ensure Work Group efforts are responsive to a variety of stakeholder needs



- State partners at the housing, transportation and education department identified opportunities to align with the federal education, transportation, and housing partnership to [Promote Diversity in Schools and Communities, and Narrow Opportunity Gaps](#).
- The CDE, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and DGS-DSA explored barriers to promoting greening school campuses with vegetation and trees, and identified potential solutions.

## Increased Understanding

- Members are knowledgeable about CDE's role in advancing healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities through school siting.
- Hosted a presentation and discussion with GreenInfo Network to explore the capabilities of the [California School Campus Database](#), which provides information on school parcel boundaries.
- The CDE hosted an agency and department input session for the HiAP Task Force to inform updates to state school siting regulations. Key discussion items included the implications of school facility development for sustainable growth, how a focus on modernizing existing schools can yield greater environmental results in comparison to new schools, and opportunities to encourage school district adoption of best practices for comprehensive health and safety practices.
- The OPR and CDE co-hosted a number of listening sessions to inform the update of state school siting and design standards.
- The Work Group contributed to OPR's General Plan Guidelines update and strategized efforts to engage local educational agencies.

## Related Outcomes

In addition to carrying out the items detailed in Work Group's *Planned Activities for 2016-2017* (see addendum), Work Group members identified and pursued a variety of other opportunities to promote health, equity, and sustainability in school land use and facility decisions. Below is a summary of additional outcomes that were not initially expected.

- The California Journal of Politics and Policy published an article on [School Siting and Walkability: Experience and Policy Implications in California](#) including the contributions of the Work Group.
- The Work Group hosted a representative from the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, to learn about key issues related to school siting in Sweden and share lessons learned from California.
- The Work Group provided input into the development of the *Green Mobility in Schools Pilot Project* proposed by the Air Resources Board. This pilot proposed to focus on K-12 public schools and fund multiple project elements that reduced greenhouse gases utilizing Low Carbon Transportation Investment funds.
- The Work Group recruited reviewers for the [California Green Ribbon Schools \(CA-GRS\)](#) award applications.



- The High Speed Rail Authority and Department of Justice have expressed interest in the Work Group and see alignment in some of their goals and the purpose of the Work Group.
- The Work Group provided insights to the National Safe Routes to School Partnership on California school siting policy and practices.
- The CDE and other agencies provided links to and shared information from the California Active Transportation Resource Center with local schools seeking to promote active travel to school.

## Value Added

Work Group members articulated the value-added through their participation. Below are key points from their responses.

- “Lots of connections between different agencies - has showed opportunities for collaboration or leveraging of existing other programs”
- “Communication and outreach to schools and community colleges about Safe Routes to schools; valuable info provided for joint use of school playgrounds and playfields within a community; and assistance in developing a list of interested stakeholders for the CALGreen rulemaking and proposing shade tree regulations at schools and community colleges.”
- “Hearing from other agencies about the wide range of school priorities and issues has helped to gain perspective for how to improve upon outreach and training strategies for our program.”

## Next Steps

Work Group members continue to be interested in the issues and topics explored by this work group. Additionally, external stakeholders and additional state entities continue to be interested in this work, for example the Department of Justice has expressed interest in participating in the Work Group. Some specific activities proposed by members for the Work Group to pursue in the future include:

- Consider expanding the Work Group’s membership to increase impact.
- Develop training opportunities (including webinars) for local educational agencies and local health departments on how to engage with and respond to questions from their local land-use planning counterparts.
- Share outreach and communication strategies targeted for the school community to state agencies in order to maximize the state’s reach and impact with limited resources.
- Review regulations and procedures for proposed school sites in or near state-identified areas of sea level rise impact, wildland fire hazard zones, areas of flood potential, production agriculture and high quality soils, and potential air quality hazards.



## Addendum

# Land Use, Schools, and Health Work Group Planned Activities for 2016 - 2017

**Work Group Purpose:** *The Land Use, Schools, and Health Work Group supports members in applying considerations of health, equity, and sustainability to decisions impacting school land use and facilities to improve community health.*

**Work Group Members:** *Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR), Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and the Departments of Education (CDE), Food and Agriculture (CDFA), General Services – Division of the State Architect (DGS-DSA), Public Health (CDPH), Pesticide Regulation (DPR), and Transportation (Caltrans)*

| Work Group Action   | Implementing Agencies                             |
|---|---|
| 1. Meet as a Work Group at least quarterly (January, April, July, October). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Host members of aligned working groups to explore opportunities to collaborate, for example: the California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN) and the Environmental Literacy Steering Committee</li> <li>b. Map member stakeholder networks to 1) increase understanding of the reach and interests of member stakeholders and 2) ensure Work Group efforts are responsive to a variety of stakeholder needs</li> </ul>   | OPR, SGC, CDE, CDFA, DGS-DSA, CDPH, DPR, Caltrans |
| 2. Support implementation of relevant activities outlined in the following HiAP Task Force Action Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Health in All Policies Task Force Action Plan: Active Transportation</li> <li>b. Health in All Policies Task Force Action Plan to Promote Violence-Free and Resilient Communities</li> </ul>   | OPR, SGC, CDE, CDPH, Caltrans                     |
| 3. In partnership with OPR, host webinars to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Contribute to General Plan Guidelines (GPG) outreach and dissemination, by sharing the GPG themes with Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), focusing on jurisdictions preparing to update their local General Plans.</li> <li>b. Highlight local government promising practices and lessons learned from jurisdictions where schools and planners and/or public health departments have joined forces to work on cross-sectoral issues successfully.</li> <li>c. Disseminate information about shared-use agreements, including best practices, tailored to land-use planners.</li> </ul> | OPR, SGC, CDE, CDPH                               |
| 4. Provide input to CDE on the development of sustainable community and school planning topical fact sheet series, including a resource to support LEAs in participating in Sustainable Community Strategy development and implementation.  | OPR, SGC, CDE, CDFA, DGS-DSA, CDPH, DPR, Caltrans |
| 5. Provide input to SGC on how school districts and local health departments can assist cities in advancing Council priorities, including through Greenhouse Gas  | OPR, SGC, CDE, CDFA,                              |



|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
|    | <p>Reduction Funded (GGRF) programs like the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and Transformational Climate Communities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. CDE and SGC will meet to discuss school siting guidance and opportunities to coordinate and collaborate on SGC’s GGRF programs and infill and transit-oriented development priorities.</li> <li>b. CDE, SGC, and Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) will meet to discuss the role of schools in the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation program and in the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE) Urban and Community Forestry and the proposed CNRA Green Infrastructure grant programs, all available through the GGRF.</li> </ol> | <p>DGS-DSA, CDPH, DPR, Caltrans, CNRA, CalFIRE</p>       |
| 6. | <p>Support diverse local and regional jurisdictions’ access to Active Transportation Program funds to: 1) develop, implement and evaluate sustainable non-infrastructure (such as Safe Routes to School) and/or infrastructure projects and programs and 2) support the implementation of school- and community-based active transportation programs throughout California.</p>   | <p>CDE, CDPH, Caltrans</p>                               |
| 7. | <p>Identify existing data, data gaps, and key partners with resources to support the establishment of a statewide school parcel boundary data set.</p>  | <p>OPR, SGC, CDE</p>                                     |
| 8. | <p>Explore additional actions as necessary, for example: collaborative opportunities to collect, share, and use data or GIS mapping tools.</p>  | <p>OPR, SGC, CDE, CDFA, DGS-DSA, CDPH, DPR, Caltrans</p> |