

NASBE

National Association of
State Boards of Education

Fact Sheet: Healthy School Facilities Network

Purpose: The Healthy School Facilities Network (HSFN) is a cohort of states working to improve policies, programs, and practices to increase access to healthy school buildings free from environmental harms such as lead in drinking water, poor air quality, asbestos and mold.

Project goals:

- Establish a collaborative network of state teams consisting of state boards of education, state and local experts, and community partners;
- Enhance the capacity of these leaders to learn from one another and leverage data, research, and best practices to improve school facility conditions statewide;
- Improve state-level policies, programs, and practices that address safe drinking water in schools and other environmental health considerations (e.g., ventilation, lighting, heat, air conditioning).

Benefits of state participation:

- Collaboration with peers from around the country working towards a similar mission of creating healthy school facilities for students to learn and thrive in;
- Dedicated work time with tailored professional development during HSFN convenings;
- Enhanced communication between federal, state, and local partners to address state specific challenges and leverage federal resources;
- Ongoing technical assistance, research upon request, and connection to subject matter experts on school facility improvements and student health;
- A \$10,000 stipend to support staff work time and to convene in-state stakeholder meetings; and
- Opportunities to elevate state successes and leadership to a national audience through NASBE platforms.

State teams: Each HSFN team must include representation from the state board of education and have a minimum of four team members. States should consider having team members from different sectors, perspectives, and roles including, but not limited to, representatives from state agencies (e.g., education, health, environmental services), state legislature, local education agencies, school facility maintenance professions, school or childcare staff, community-based organizations, research institutions, and children's health. States are encouraged to include at least one team member representing disadvantaged or marginalized communities.

What's expected: HSFN states are expected to demonstrate an interest and commitment to improving access to healthy school facilities during the project period (September 2022 – June 2023). Through the project, states will collaborate with other state teams and national experts, participate in four HSFN convenings (October, January, March, May), convene in-state stakeholder meetings, and take action to improve school facilities. Examples of state leadership will be gathered over the course of the project by NASBE staff to highlight through publications and during national conversations. Network states will submit a brief impact report in June 2023.

Organizational background: As a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, NASBE elevates state board members' voices in national and state policymaking, facilitates the exchange of informed ideas, and supports members in advancing equity and excellence in public education for students of all races, genders, and circumstances. The HSFN advances NASBE's mission by serving and strengthening state boards to become more informed policymakers equipped to create healthy learning environments for all students. This project is managed by Megan Blanco, NASBE's director of safe and healthy schools. She can be reached at megan.blanco@nasbe.org.

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