

School Health Terminology

Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC):

The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC)¹ (usually pronounced “whisk”) approach is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a school-based strategy to improve student health and achievement. In Texas, four of these eight components — nutrition services, physical education, health education and family engagement— are required. These four components are usually addressed via the School Wellness Policy¹.

1. Physical education and physical activity.
2. Nutrition environment and services.
3. Health education.
4. Social and emotional school climate.
5. Physical environment.
6. Health services.
7. Counseling, psychological and social services.
8. Employee wellness.
9. Community involvement
10. Family engagement



Family Engagement²:

This is the bedrock — parent engagement is one of the only educational strategies proven to benefit student performance across all demographics, and it is an expression of parental rights. Regardless of income and across cultures, parental engagement improves educational outcomes and supports healthy development in all areas.

Campus Improvement Committees³:

These committees are required at every school to assist and inform local decisions. Per TEA code, they are “involved in decisions in the areas of planning, budgeting, curriculum, staffing patterns, staff development, and school organization. These groups are designed to include parents, community and staff.”

School Wellness Policy⁴:

Since 2006 and updated in 2016, every school that accepts funding for school meals from the USDA (98% of schools) must develop and post, at the local level, a Wellness Policy that sets goals for nutrition education, nutrition promotion, physical activity, campus food provision and activities to promote student wellness. These plans must be made available to the public.

School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs)⁵:

Required by Texas law, Student Health Advisory Councils are hosted by school districts to gather input from parents and the broader community, and to provide advice to school districts on topics related to school health policy and practice. In Texas, SHACs are required to meet at least 4 times per year, to report to the district board of trustees once per year, and to consist of at least 51% parents who are not employed by the school district.

Board of Trustees⁶:

In Texas, public school districts are led by a Board of Trustees (BOT) , who are elected by the community. For charter schools in Texas, Board of Trustee members are appointment by the State Board of Education. The name, term of office, and email of each Trustee are required by law to be posted on the district's website. BOT meetings are subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act, which means these meetings are open to the public. Any citizen can attend, watch, or speak at a BOT meeting. The main duties of a Board of Trustees in Texas are:

- Adopt goals and priorities and monitor success
- Adopt policies and review for effectiveness
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent
- Adopt a budget and set a tax rate
- Communicate with the community

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)⁷:

The TEKS are curriculum standards that detail what students should know and be able to do at every grade level in every required subject.

State Board of Education (SBOE)⁸:

Within the TEA, the SBOE plays a critical leadership role in the public school system in Texas. SBOE members are elected, while the chair is appointed by the Governor. All SBOE meetings are open to the public, and anyone can testify by submitting the form found on the SBOE website. The duties of the SBOE are:

- Setting curriculum standards (TEKS)
- Reviewing and adopting instructional materials
- Establishing graduation requirements
- Overseeing the Texas Permanent School Fund
- Appointing board members to military reservation and special school districts
- Providing final review of rules proposed by the State Board for Educator Certification
- Reviewing the commissioner's proposed award of new charter schools, with authority to veto a recommended applicant

Texas Education Agency (TEA):

This agency is responsible for public education in Texas. The TEA administers standardized testing in Texas, updates the TEKS, and oversees WSCC, among many other responsibilities.

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wsccl/index.htm>
2. <https://texasschoolguide.org/parents-as-partners/>
3. <https://www.esc1.net/cms/lib/TX21000366/Centricity/Domain/108/TEC-Chapter-11-SBDM.pdf>
4. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/lwp5yrplan.pdf>
5. <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/sdhac.shtm>
6. <https://www.tasb.org/board-service.aspx>
7. <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/curriculum-standards/teks/texas-essential-knowledge-and-skills>
8. <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/leadership/state-board-of-education>