

WSCC References

The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model provides a framework for states to consider all aspects of students' well-being. This analysis explores the extent to which state laws include explicit references to the WSCC or its predecessor, Coordinated School Health, as well as provisions for wellness councils and policies.

To what extent are WSCC references included in state law?

- Nineteen states address the WSCC Framework or its precursor, the Coordinated School Health model, within law.** Three of these states (DC, VT, WA) specifically address WSCC by name, with the District of Columbia and Washington addressing it within their health education standards.
- District-level WSCC/wellness councils are addressed most often (16 states), followed by state-level (10 states), and school-level (4 states).** Three states (FL, MS, OK) required that school-level councils be created.
- Only seven states' laws encourage, and 15 states' laws require that wellness policies be adopted by school districts in their state.** This is despite U.S. Department of Agriculture rules mandating that all school districts participating in federal child nutrition programs adopt and implement local wellness policies that include goals for nutrition, physical activity, and other school-based activities to promote student wellness, among other requirements.¹

Figure 1. The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child framework is not well addressed in state laws.

Comprehensiveness of policies promoting the WSCC framework in schools, by state

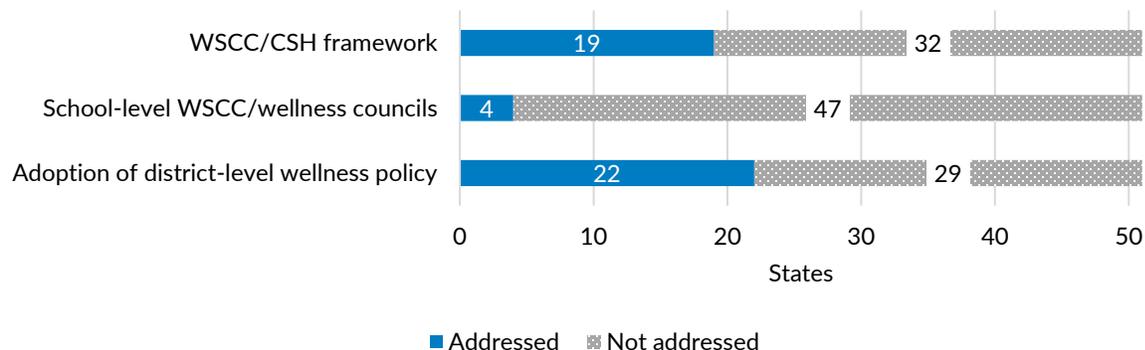


This map shows states that have [△] moderate (16), [□] low (16), [○] and no (19) coverage of the WSCC framework in statutes and regulations governing education.

How comprehensively do states include references to the WSCC?

- **As a model, the WSCC is not well addressed within state laws.** The 32 states that did regulate or legislate in this area addressed a low (range: 17 percent to 33 percent; 16 states) or moderate (range: 50 percent to 67 percent; 16 states) number of topics. Within these states, items that are federally required for school districts (such as wellness policy adoption and the creation of district wellness councils for that purpose) were addressed most often.

Figure 2. Number of States Covering WSCC Reference Topics



Child Trends, in partnership with The Institute of Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago and EMT Associates, Inc., examined the extent to which 11 healthy schools domains are addressed in state policy. These domains include the 10 components of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model: Health Education; Physical Education and Physical Activity; Nutrition Environment and Services; Health Services; Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services; Social and Emotional Climate; Physical Environment; Employee Wellness; Family Engagement; and Community Involvement. An additional domain, the WSCC References domain, addresses the extent to which state laws include explicit references to the WSCC model or similar language, such as the Center for Disease Control and Preventions' Coordinated School Health model.

This sub-brief provides an overview of how state policies cover the WSCC References domain. Sub-briefs covering the other domains as well as the compiled report can be found on the [Child Trends website](#). Definitions of each of the six topics are provided in the Appendix of the compiled report. Data from all topics are available through the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) [State Policy Database on School Health](#).