



Partnership for
a Healthy Texas
Conquering Obesity

Partnership for a Healthy Texas Priorities—83rd Legislature

School and Community Environment

Fiscal Priorities:

- Preserve funding for the School Health Network within the DSHS Budget
- Support the DSHS Chronic Disease Prevention exceptional item related to obesity prevention
- Support expanded funding for the Texans Feeding Texans program, a Texas Department of Agriculture grant that helps farmers donate surplus produce to local food banks.

Policy Priorities:

- Improve the health of schoolchildren by restoring a half credit of physical education in high school as well as health as requirements for graduation
- Support efforts to ensure advertising on school district property is nutritionally appropriate
- Support Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School
- Utilize local school health advisory councils to make policy recommendations to school district concerning the types and quantity of sugar sweetened beverages sold in school sited vending machines and a la carte offerings.

Early Childhood

- Improve nutrition and physical activity in early childhood programs by strengthening the Texas Education Agency's Pre-K health standards.
- Encourage innovative approaches to engaging parents and child care facilities by earmarking a specified percent of the Texas Department of Agriculture's health and nutrition grants for programs serving young children.
- Support recommendations outlined in the Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Interagency Council report released in the fall of 2012.

Food Systems and Access

- Support policies that address food insecurity and obesity as they relate to a lack of access to affordable and healthy foods. Improve access to healthy foods by supporting policies that allow the use of vacant state land for community gardens and incentivize private landowners to offer a portion of their land for the same purpose.
- Promote guidelines that establish nutritional content standards and that set local food procurement targets for foods offered via vending machines and food service programs located in state facilities and agencies.