Developing a School Health Services Assessment Tool and Related Resources

**Purpose**

*Developing a School Health Services Assessment Tool and Related Resources* will increase the competency and capacity of local school health services systems by drafting, piloting, finalizing, implementing and evaluating a school health services quality assessment tool which will be complemented by resources, templates and educational materials to address priorities identified through the assessment results.

Schools currently do not have an assessment tool that can be used to improve their health services. Improving health services is important because schools offer an opportunity to positively impact the health of significant numbers of children. Improving child health is important to schools because poor child health negatively impacts school learning and academic achievement. Additionally, children who experience poor health have significantly poorer adult outcomes, such as lower education attainment, adverse health conditions, and lower social status. How we support our children now will affect the future health of the state’s economy, communities, and population.

**Informed by research, evaluation and systematic data collection:**

Staff developed a draft school health services assessment tool based on a review of literature, statutes and input from core partners, the School Nurse Practice Council, and the Advisory Committee. The draft assessment tool will be piloted in Fall 2011, with pilot districts being selected in October. Pilot criteria are being finalized, based on Advisory Committee input. Recruitment materials and follow-up evaluation/reflection have been drafted and are ready for IRB submission.

**Addressing local needs of the targeted population in ways that are culturally sensitive and inclusive:**

Pilot site criteria were drafted and then revised based on input from core partners, the School Nurse Practice Council and the Advisory Committee. Between 10 and 12 school districts will be selected. Criteria include:

- Administrator support (required)
- Balance between rural and urban and suburban communities
- 50% economically disadvantaged (state average is 40%)
- At least one with contract RN vs. employed by school district
- Varied RN to pupil ratio
- One district from each Wisconsin Association of School Nurses district

**Goal:**
To increase the competency and capability of local school health services systems.

**Award:**
$740,963 over five years

**Project Dates:**
2/1/2011 to 1/31/2016

**Project partners:**
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB)
- Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA)
- Wisconsin Association of School Nurses (WASN)
- Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA)
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
- Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH)
- Medical College of Wisconsin – Department of Family and Community Medicine