

Austin ISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

2022-2023 Annual Report

Summary:

The 2022-2023 AISD SHAC worked together to address issues and concerns that were identified as impacting the health and safety of students and staff. Over the course of the academic year, workgroups were convened to 1) review and make recommendations to the district's temperature guidelines, 2) review the AISD Wellness Policy and 3) to provide feedback on changes to the Elementary Master Schedule. The SHAC appreciates the AISD Health Services Department for providing a monthly update at every meeting.

2022-2023 Activities:

The SHAC conducted monthly meetings, split evening between virtual in-person meetings, to effectively address the needs of both the community and district. The SHAC appreciated the engagement by Board Trustees and responded to requests to review and provide input to the District's temperature guidelines and changes to the Elementary Master Schedule. We are pleased to report that the SHAC was able to meet the majority of the year's goals outlined for the SHAC in the 2021-2022 Annual Report.

Our year's highlights include:

- The SHAC responded to a request, made early in the year, by a member of the Board of Trustees to review the district's temperature guidelines and provide input for revision. A workgroup was convened who reviewed, discussed, and made recommendations for updating the guidelines. The workgroup presented their findings and recommendations to the SHAC for additional input. Collaboration of the Athletic Department, Fine Arts Department, Health and Physical Education Department, and the SHAC subcommittee were critical for the updated temperature guidelines released.
- At the beginning of the year, the SHAC was also made aware that the AISD Wellness Policy needed to be reviewed. A taskforce was put together to understand the cadence of updating the policy and to review the policy in its entirety. The review committee consisted of Dr. Nick Wagner, Rachel Dunn AISD Dietician, Belynda Montgomery and the recent additions of Nina Miller and Joan Eisenberg. Documentation was found that the policy had been revised in 2017 and 2020, but the 2020 revised document has not been located. The recommendations made were to 1) revise the wellness policy every 3-5 years and 2) have the policy reflect the Whole Child approach to the care and health of children.
- Throughout the year, the SHAC received regular updates regarding the opioid and substance misuse initiative within the district. Updates were provided on ways the district educated, informed, and provided information to parents and staff. Child psychiatrist and physician SHAC members provided input and support, and they connected school health service staff and administrators to the Travis County Medical Society (TCMS). Various

physicians TCMS members were interested in volunteering their time to AISD to help with the initiative.

- Presentations were given to the SHAC about counseling crisis and mental health by Dr. Twyla Williams. The SHAC supported district efforts addressing mental health of students and staff
- In November the SHAC was given an update on the Elementary School Schedule as requested by AISD Board Chair Trustee Singh. Subsequent to the presentation, SHAC members collected feedback about the schedule from district employees. In February 2023, the SHAC chairs provided the AISD Board of Trustees with informal feedback received. Benefits, challenges, and opportunities were shared. It was discovered in the spring of 2023, that the letter submitted to the AISD Board on February 15, 2023, had not been provided to the board. This gap in information dissemination was corrected by AISD staff after the co-chairs followed up on the lack of knowledge by trustees about the survey. This highlighted the need for documentation of processes and protocols for all AISD staff, SHAC co-chairs, and SHAC members.
- The SHAC learned about and monitored efforts around ensuring the safety of students, faculty, and staff in midst of increased gun violence in schools. In the spring of 2023, concerns of the School Safety and Disciplinary Support were brought to the attention of the SHAC members. A letter was written and sent to the Board on April 20, 2023 recommending an immediate response and deployment of district support to Kealing Middle School. This letter was sent after concerns from a teacher posted by a member of AISD Collaborated were brought to the SHAC's attention. These concerns were corroborated by a SHAC member with a student at Kealing. In the letter, the AISD SHAC recommended:
 - Immediate engagement with the school administration, faculty, staff, and parents to implement a comprehensive district response
 - Deployment of increased mental health support for students, teachers, and staff in need
 - Immediate increase in the number of safety officers and district administrative personnel at the school
- In an effort to foster a relationship with newly elected board of trustee members, the SHAC sent welcome and introductory letters to each new trustee member in January 2023.
- Throughout the year, your SHAC Co-chairs worked to recruit SHAC members with the aim of having a full roster. These efforts will need to continue in the upcoming year.
 - An orientation powerpoint has been drafted for future SHAC co-chairs to use for new SHAC members.
- Continued opportunities exist for future AISD School Health Advisory Councils, including:
 - Learning about and providing input to nursing staffing for the school district as it relates to student health
 - Contributing to efforts to close the health equity gap
- As both SHAC co-chairs will be rolling off at the end of the year, 2 new SHAC co-chairs will need to be appointed

- Your 2022-2023 SHAC co-chairs engaged SHAC members in a robust discussion about the goals for the upcoming school year.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the agreed up goals for the AISD SHAC include:

- Actively engage with the AISD Board of Trustees to provide input on a comprehensive, multidisciplinary school safety and discipline plan
- Provide feedback and input for AISD student and staff mental health and substance misuse initiatives