

Roles of School Health Advisory Councils

A SHAC has many roles. At minimum, Texas SHACs must do the job that is outlined in the TEC, Title 1, Chapter 28, Class §28.004. The most effective SHACs create recommendations that speak to the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) approach to health and learning.¹ SHACS may be given the following roles:

Program Planning:

SHACs work together with schools to carefully plan school health programming and the impact on student health. Sharing teaching methods, working through obstacles and helping with assessment activities may be a part of a SHAC's work. Talking over health issues, selecting programs and having training time for members are also ways to use a SHAC's time. The most effective SHACs create recommendations that speak to the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child approach to health and learning.

Promotion:

SHACs assist in promoting school health. School health promotion allows the school district and community to see what the SHAC has to offer. Shining a spotlight on the work of a SHAC is one way to promote school health. This work also includes promoting school health coordination within the school district and in the community. The benefits can range from receiving more resources to building better understanding between the school and community.

Fiscal Impact:

One of the main roles of any SHAC is to make school health recommendations to the school board. The SHAC should work with school personnel to figure out if a school health recommendation will bring any cost to the school district. Helping the school district raise money for suggested programs and preparing grant requests are some of the ways a SHAC can offset costs.

Collaboration with District and State Agencies :

SHACs work with school district and state agency personnel in many ways. Sometimes they work together to recommend health programs, locate health services, create food service programs, share federal and state funds, and make policy.