



# California

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with ASCD, developed the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) framework to highlight the need for schools to address all aspects of children’s physical, mental, and social well-being to help them learn and thrive. In 2019, Child Trends, the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and EMT Associates, Inc. released the [first comprehensive analysis](#) of state statutes and regulations that address key topic areas in each of the WSCC’s 10 components as of September 2017. This updated profile documents the landscape of selected school health policies in California as of September 2019 and describes how those policies have changed since 2017. The profile also newly incorporates information about whether states have non-codified policies on topics for which they do not have codified statutes or regulations. The full set of topic areas, along with applicable statutory and regulatory language, is available through the National Association of State Boards of Education’s (NASBE) [State Policy Database on School Health](#). The national summary report and profiles for each state can be found on the [Child Trends website](#).

## Policy Churn in California Statutes and Regulations, 2017 to 2019



	California	National
Community Involvement	60%	11%
Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services	30%	22%
Employee Wellness	0%	0%
Family Engagement	25%	11%
Health Education	0%	3%
Health Services	0%	2%
Nutrition Environment and Services	6%	3%
Physical Education and Activity	0%	2%
Physical Environment	13%	13%
Social and Emotional Climate	11%	10%

WSCC Reference 0% 0%  
\*Orange shading indicates more churn in state policy than national average

# California's approach to selected topic areas by domain

## Overall Coverage of the WSCC

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Coverage of WSCC	Not addressed	Non-codified policy only	no change
State-Level Wellness Councils	Required	Required	no change
School-Level Wellness Councils	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
District Wellness Policies	Required	Required	no change

## Health Education

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Discussion of LGB Topics in Health Education	NA	Not addressed or law specifically allows for inclusion of LGB topics	topic was not coded for 2017
National HE Standards	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Bullying Prevention (within Health Education)	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Healthy Eating/Nutrition Curriculum	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change
Mental and Emotional Health Curriculum	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change
Personal Health and Wellness Curriculum	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change
Suicide Prevention (within Health Education)	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Violence Prevention (within Health Education)	Required in all grade levels	Required in all grade levels	no change

## Physical Education and Physical Activity

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Adaptive PE Requirements	Addresses inclusivity of PE activity	Addresses inclusivity of PE activity	no change
PE Exemptions for Academics	Allowed	Allowed	no change
PE Exemptions for Illness	Allowed	Allowed	no change
PE Exemptions for Disabilities	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
PE Substitutions	Allows substitution of other activities for PE requirements	Allows substitution of other activities for PE requirements	no change
District Waivers from PE Requirements	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Physical Activity Throughout Day	Not addressed	Non-codified policy only	no change
National PE Standards (SHAPE America)	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Time for PE -- Elementary	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	no change
Time for PE -- Middle	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	no change
Time for PE -- High	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	no change
Recess	Addressed or required less than daily	Addressed or required less than daily	no change
Sport Participation Fees	Sports participation fees prohibited or waivers provided	Sports participation fees prohibited or waivers provided	no change

## Social and Emotional Climate

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Hazing Policy	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change
Dating Violence Policy	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change
Limits on Exclusionary Discipline	Requires limits on use of suspension and expulsion	Requires limits on use of suspension and expulsion	no change
Alternatives to Exclusionary Discipline	Required	Required	no change
School Resource Officer Training	Required	Required	no change
Limits on Referrals to Law Enforcement	Requires referral for any offense in violation of criminal code	Requires referral for any offense in violation of criminal code	no change
Equitable Discipline Practices	Monitoring required	Monitoring required	no change
Multi-tiered Positive Behavior Supports	Encouraged	Required	more supportive/prescriptive
School climate surveys	NA	Encouraged	topic was not coded for 2017
Social-Emotional Learning or Character Development	Not addressed	Encouraged	more supportive/prescriptive
Professional Development for Cultural Competency	Required	Required	no change
Chronic Absenteeism Early Warning Systems	Encourages or requires comprehensive student supports	Encourages or requires comprehensive student supports	no change
Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Policy	Includes all components of U.S. Department of Education recommendations	Includes all components of U.S. Department of Education recommendations	no change
Professional Development for Bullying Prevention	Encouraged	Required	more supportive/prescriptive

## Counseling, Psychological and Social Services

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
School-based or School-linked Mental Health Services	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change
Professional Development for Trauma	Not addressed	Encouraged	more supportive/prescriptive
Professional Development for Mental Health	Not addressed	Encouraged	more supportive/prescriptive
Early Identification and Referral	Encouraged or Required	Encouraged or Required	no change
Professional Development for Suicide Prevention	Encouraged	Required	more supportive/prescriptive
Suicide Prevention Policy	Required	Required	no change
School Counseling - Elementary	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change
School Counseling - Secondary	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change

## Employee Wellness

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Staff Wellness Programs	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change

## Physical Environment

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Emergency Operations Plans</b>	Required, with regular reviews and updates	Required, with regular reviews and updates	no change
<b>Threat assessment</b>	NA	Not addressed	topic was not coded for 2017
<b>Security and safety assessments</b>	NA	Encouraged	topic was not coded for 2017
<b>Multi-hazard Practice Drills</b>	Not addressed	Required without interagency coordination	more supportive/prescriptive
<b>Alcohol and Drug Use Intervention Programs</b>	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change
<b>Corporal Punishment</b>	Prohibited	Prohibited	no change
<b>Restraint and Seclusion</b>	Limits use and includes comprehensive protections	Limits use and includes comprehensive protections	no change
<b>Tobacco and Vaping Policies</b>	NA	Addresses vaping	topic was not coded for 2017

## Health Services

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>School-based Health Services</b>	Addresses on-campus health centers or clinics	Addresses on-campus health centers or clinics	no change
<b>School Nurse Availability</b>	Addressed, but nurse availability limited	Addressed, but nurse availability limited	no change
<b>Healthy School Start Times</b>	NA	Required	topic was not coded for 2017
<b>Preventive Health Screenings - Elementary</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Preventive Health Screenings - Middle</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Preventive Health Screenings - High</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Vaccination Waivers</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Referrals to Community Health Providers</b>	Addressed	Addressed	no change

## Family Engagement

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Family Engagement Plans</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Professional Development on Family Engagement</b>	Not addressed	Encouraged	more supportive/prescriptive
<b>Family Engagement in Local Governance</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Family Engagement in Policymaking on School Discipline</b>	Encouraged	Required	more supportive/prescriptive

## Nutrition Environment and Services

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>USDA School Nutritional Standards</b>	Not addressed	Required	more supportive/prescriptive
<b>Unhealthy Marketing Restrictions</b>	Restricted to foods that meet Smart Snack standards	Restricted to foods that meet Smart Snack standards	no change
<b>Strategies to Increase Breakfast</b>	Recommended or restricted to certain schools or students	Recommended or restricted to certain schools or students	no change
<b>Access to Potable Water Throughout Day</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Competitive Food (Outside of School Meals)</b>	Addressed, does not meet federal requirements in all grades	Addressed, does not meet federal requirements in all grades	no change
<b>Unpaid Meal Charge Policy</b>	Supports access to meals	Supports access to meals	no change

## Community Involvement

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Community Involvement in Local Governance</b>	Encouraged	Not addressed	less supportive/prescriptive
<b>School-Community Interagency Partnerships</b>	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change
<b>Community Use of Public School Facilities</b>	Authorized and Encouraged	Authorized and Encouraged	no change