



# Arkansas

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 Arkansas 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 Arkansas Statutes and Regulations, 2017 to 2019



	Arkansas	National
Community Involvement	20%	11%
Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services	30%	22%
Employee Wellness	0%	0%
Family Engagement	12%	11%
Health Education	14%	3%
Health Services	0%	2%
Nutrition Environment and Services	6%	3%
Physical Education and Activity	5%	2%
Physical Environment	0%	13%
Social and Emotional Climate	19%	10%

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

# Arkansas's approach to selected topic areas by domain

## Overall Coverage of the WSCC

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Coverage of WSCC</b>	Addresses coordinated school health	Addresses coordinated school health	no change
<b>State-Level Wellness Councils</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>School-Level Wellness Councils</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>District Wellness Policies</b>	Required	Required	no change

## Health Education

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

## Physical Education and Physical Activity

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Adaptive PE Requirements</b>	Addresses inclusivity of PE activity	Addresses inclusivity of PE activity	no change
<b>PE Exemptions for Academics</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>PE Exemptions for Illness</b>	Allowed	Allowed	no change
<b>PE Exemptions for Disabilities</b>	Allowed	Allowed	no change
<b>PE Substitutions</b>	Allows substitution of other activities for PE requirements	Allows substitution of other activities for PE requirements	no change
<b>District Waivers from PE Requirements</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Physical Activity Throughout Day</b>	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change
<b>National PE Standards (SHAPE America)</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Time for PE -- Elementary</b>	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	no change
<b>Time for PE -- Middle</b>	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards	no change
<b>Time for PE -- High</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Recess</b>	Addressed or required less than daily	Requires daily recess	more supportive/prescriptive
<b>Sport Participation Fees</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change

## Social and Emotional Climate

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Hazing Policy	Encouraged	Encouraged	no change
Dating Violence Policy	Not addressed	Not addressed	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	Encouraged	Encouraged	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	Not addressed	topic was not coded for 2017
Social-Emotional Learning or Character Development	Not addressed	Required	more supportive/prescriptive
Professional Development for Cultural Competency	Encouraged	Encouraged	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	Required	Non-codified policy only	less supportive/prescriptive
Professional Development for Trauma	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Professional Development for Mental Health	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
Early Identification and Referral	Encouraged or Required	Non-codified policy only	less supportive/prescriptive
Professional Development for Suicide Prevention	Required	Required	no change
Suicide Prevention Policy	Encouraged	Required	more supportive/prescriptive
School Counseling - Elementary	Required	Required	no change
School Counseling - Secondary	Required	Required	no change

## Employee Wellness

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
Staff Wellness Programs	Not addressed	Not addressed	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	Non-codified policy only	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>	Required, with required or encouraged interagency coordination	Required, with required or encouraged interagency coordination	no change
<b>Alcohol and Drug Use Intervention Programs</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Corporal Punishment</b>	Permitted	Permitted	no change
<b>Restraint and Seclusion</b>	Limits use with some protections	Limits use with some 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	Not addressed	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>	Allowed for religious or moral reasons	Allowed for religious or moral reasons	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>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Family Engagement in Local Governance</b>	Encouraged	Required	more supportive/prescriptive
<b>Family Engagement in Policymaking on School Discipline</b>	Required	Required	no change

## Nutrition Environment and Services

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>USDA School Nutritional Standards</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Unhealthy Marketing Restrictions</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Strategies to Increase Breakfast</b>	Not addressed	Not addressed	no change
<b>Access to Potable Water Throughout Day</b>	Recommended	Recommended	no change
<b>Competitive Food (Outside of School Meals)</b>	Meets federal Smart Snacks standards in all grades	Meets federal Smart Snacks standards in all grades	no change
<b>Unpaid Meal Charge Policy</b>	Not addressed	Supports access to meals	more supportive/prescriptive

## Community Involvement

	SY 17-18	SY 19-20	Change
<b>Community Involvement in Local Governance</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>School-Community Interagency Partnerships</b>	Required	Required	no change
<b>Community Use of Public School Facilities</b>	Authorized and Encouraged	Authorized and Encouraged	no change